

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

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No. 203.—Vol. 8.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1859.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

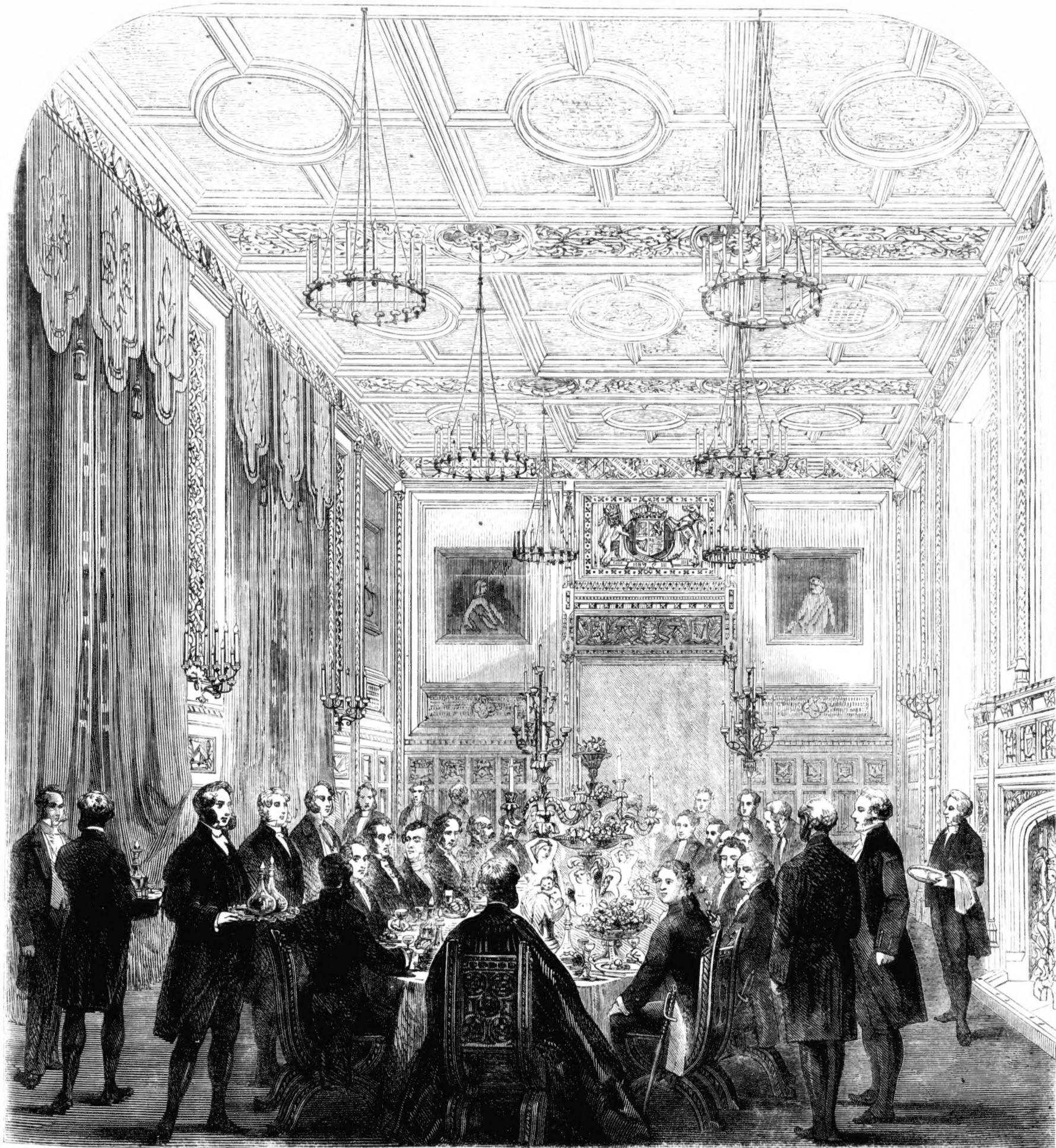
It is natural and justifiable—and yet, after all, it is not a fact to be proud of—that almost any contemporary subject would excite more interest than that which Lord Stanley brought before the House of Commons on Monday. In a country like ours, one result of freedom is that politics become an amusement, and that people feel ill-treated if asked to discuss a subject which does not awaken passion, or fancy, or humour. But it is our duty to remember that we should look at things from a higher point of view; and we must say, after reading Lord Stanley's Indian speech, that there goes more down-right in-

tellect to the making of such an exposition than to that of many an oration of which the brilliancy alone, and not the thought, preserves the reputation. We shall best show our sense of what we owe to this patrician man of business by attempting a brief summary of the truths which he has laid before the country. Such a summary will be at once a medium of national instruction, and a recognition of his solid and splendid parts.

The first fact which we have to look in the face is the annual "deficit" which our Indian budget presents, and which the mutiny of the last two years has raised from nine millions to nearly

thirteen. This is the fundamental fact of the affair—our mode of dealing with which will determine the future financial condition of India. We suppose it is unnecessary to say that the real question is, whether, by developing the resources of that empire and economising its outlay, we can make up our leeway in financial matters, and give our power more solidity by making our money arrangements more respectable.

Lord Stanley thinks, on the whole, that we can, and that there is "no cause for despondency" when the entire prospect is surveyed. Let us see the grounds on which he has arrived at that conclusion.



THE SPEAKER'S FIRST PARLIAMENTARY DINNER IN HIS NEW OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.

His Lordship holds out no great hopes from "forfeitures" caused by the rebellion, and is evidently unwilling (wisely, we think) to encourage the notion of getting much from that source. It is, therefore, best to dwell on the established sources of revenue, with a view to their adjustment and improvement. Of these—the first in dignity, and the greatest in value, is the "land revenue," which produces 50 per cent. of the entire income. This has increased on a tolerably regular scale, as our dominions have grown older, and in '58-9, amounted to eighteen millions—an advance on the year '50 of something like a half million. Can we hope for a future enlargement of this source? Lord Stanley thinks we can: but only (and this is important) from such improvements—by railways, irrigation, &c.—as a policy of social reform may procure for us. He intimates in this part of his speech—as, more positively, in others—that we must not look to annexation as a means of bringing us more land revenue by bringing us more land. The public has long shown its feeling on this point. It fears and dislikes further annexation—without injustice, however, to those great Indian statesmen who once pursued it. What, then, remains? To develop what we have—to practise a policy of peace and prudence. Alexander himself would not have sighed for more worlds to conquer, if he had once tasted the pleasure of making the most of that which he had.

Next in importance to what we draw from land is what we draw from opium. This was a ticklish subject for the Indian Secretary, but he managed it capitally; because, in reality, Lord Stanley's strong point is his common sense. The opium revenue has increased during the present century from £372,000 to £5,195,000. It is objected to by many worthy persons on moral grounds; but, after all, as Lord Stanley argued, on grounds which would equally tell in favour of a British Maino Law. The truth is, that Government—as Government—is a practical affair, and must accept the tastes, habits, and even weaknesses of mankind, as facts which it cannot alter, and which it has a right to use. There was some truth, after all, in Vespasian's jocular view of fiscal affairs, when he held out the money which he had gained by an ignoble impost, and asked the objector "Did it smell?" But we need not fall back on such a defence. The use of opium, in fact, is a comfort to masses of Orientals—an intoxication to some—a source of ruin only to a few. We do not create its mischiefs in any case, whatever they are, but only avail ourselves of a natural inclination among the people when it is our lot to govern in that part of the globe.

The salt and customs duties increase like others; but in their as in other instances, Lord Stanley holds out no great prospect of a growth capable of meeting the balance against us. Looking to internal reforms for one means of bettering the position, he also looks to economy as the first, and most obvious, method of improving it. In what, then, can we economise? Our military expenses were, naturally, immensely raised by the mutiny—to the extent, indeed, of eighteen millions in two years; and there is no prospect, except of the most general kind, of a reduction in this department. Our ascendancy is again established; and railways will by and by make a small force more useful than a larger one is without them. But the native army now contains 243,061 men; while the European army contains 91,580; and who can say to what extent either can yet be safely reduced? Then, too, the civil expenditure is in the way of being diminished; but we are fairly told, that it is difficult to get competent men for the civil service, and that, when got, they must be well paid. The Indian debt, meanwhile, remains stationary in proportion to the revenue of the country; and though this is satisfactory and healthy so far, Lord Stanley is evidently not yet prepared to ask this country, by becoming responsible for it, to improve its financial aspect.

In the latter part of his speech, Lord Stanley dealt more directly and formally with the problem means by which the condition of India can be permanently ameliorated. He showed that trade, as evidenced by the imports and exports of the cities of the different presidencies, was improving; that railways were in progress and promising well; that a telegraph line as far as Aden is expected to be laid down this summer; and that such canals as we have made bring a large return. He then went on to the question of "land tenure," and pointed out that the Government was gradually adopting a plan for creating a permanent class of freeholders. This was followed by a notice of the inquiry that has been going on into titles in India, which has been accused of causing much suffering and disaffection. The principle to be adopted for the future is "to respect absolutely undisturbed possession for a certain number of years," which will do away with the uncertainty that must otherwise be felt throughout the population holding what are called "enam" properties.

The conclusion, as was inevitable, of Lord Stanley's most able and elaborate speech, was a demand for the House's permission to raise a loan secured on Indian revenue. The amount fixed is seven millions, and this is calculated so as to cover every possible margin, and prevent the probability of another loan being required. While we see several states of Europe borrowing money to prepare for war, it is satisfactory, at least, to know that the liabilities of British kingdoms are incurred for ultimate objects so superior. We do not think that the House of Commons will much improve on the plans of the present Indian Secretary; and the discussion now going on will illustrate rather than elevate his wise and temperate policy.

THE SPEAKER'S "OFFICIAL DINNER."

FRONTING you as you enter New Palace Yard, are two Gothic gateways, both of which lead into a quadrangular court-yard, and fronting these gateways stands the Speaker's house. It may be known at once by the elaborate porch which Sir Charles Barry has just set up. The Speaker has not taken up his abode yet at this his official residence, nor will he do so this session; but he will give his official dinners, and hold his levees here. On Saturday the first of these official dinners was given. The guests on this occasion were the principal Cabinet and other Ministers. These dinners are full-dress, and stately affairs; indeed, all the guests we believe are obliged to attend in court costume. The dining room, which was inaugurated on Saturday last, is a splendid chamber, in every way fit for the ceremonial banquetting room of the Speaker of the House of Commons. The object of the architect was to realise the old baronial magnificence; and he has achieved a success, unless, indeed, he have not gone too far, which we rather suspect to be the case; for surely, in the olden time, "no baron or squire or knight of the shire" ever had a dining-hall so gorgeously fitted up as this. The size of the chamber is 43 feet long by 23 feet wide, and 21 feet high. The ceiling is of oak, divided and sub-divided into square panels; and, in the centre of each panel, is a circle, and in the centre of the circle a shield, on which is, in emblazonry, the arms of a Lancaster or a York, or the well-known Westminster portcullis. To describe all the gilding and ornamentation of this noble room would be useless, because it is quite impossible, by

such description, to bring the *tout ensemble* before the eye of the reader, but we must mention the sideboard and the mantel-piece. The sideboard is of solid oak, extending along one end of the room, and is designed in strict accordance with the other fittings, and with the architecture of the building. At the back of the sideboard are three plate-glass mirrors, in which a great part of the chamber—the plate immediately in front and the dining table with the guests—are reflected. Over the sideboard are two handsome candle-laburs. The mantel-piece is a truly magnificent affair. It is made of dark-gray marble, and is twelve feet wide by eight feet high, and three feet deep, and is, of course, elaborately carved. The fireplace is open and lined with polished Minton tiles, and the grate, which is a very large one, is flanked by fire-dogs, in form of a lion and unicorn, each bearing a banner. Three noble Gothic windows, looking on to the River Terrace, light this grand apartment, and round the walls are hung portraits of the most celebrated Speakers, the place of honour over the mantel-piece being assigned to the late Speaker, Lord Eversley. It is a curious fact, that at the late dinner there was present a gentleman who lineally descended from the fifth Speaker on the rolls—the Hon. George Waldegrave, the present Speaker's secretary. Sir Richard Waldegrave, his ancestor, was Speaker in 1382. The Waldegrave family has been rather prolific in Speakers of the House of Commons. Mauney, in his "Lives of the Speakers," tells us that eight Speakers have belonged to this family, or been connected with it by ties of consanguinity.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE budget of expenses and receipts for 1860 has been presented to the Legislative body. The expenses are estimated at 1,795,367,481fr., showing an increase on the budget of 1859 of 29,586,601fr. The increase to the receipts of the public revenue is estimated at 43,690,271fr.

The long-announced decree, extending the octroi-line of Paris to that part of the suburbs which is included in the fortifications, has at last appeared. The measure, however, is not to be put in force before the 1st of January, 1860. It contains various provisions for the protection of vested interests, and some transitory arrangements.

A new European congress on general affairs is talked of. Warlike rumours still abound. The 23rd regiment of the line, and a battalion of riflemen, forming part of General Renault's division, has arrived at Marseilles. Horses for the French cavalry, are to be purchased in Tunis and Algeria, in which latter place the belief that France is going to war is universal. Private accounts from Lyons state that the musketry practice of the troops, which usually does not begin till the month of May, is to commence forthwith in the division commanded by Marshal Castellane, whose headquarters are in that city. And the Paris correspondent of the "Express" says:—"I learn from a private source, in which I place confidence, that the Emperor is preparing tents, horses, arms, uniforms, &c., to take the field in person."

RUSSIA.

THE "Augsburg Gazette," which a little while ago denied a report that Russian troops were being concentrated on the Gallician frontier, now says:—"The news from Poland and from the Polish frontier is becoming more and more equivocal. To-day we suddenly receive confirmation of the rumour that Russia was assembling troops upon the Hungarian and Gallician frontier, and was arming herself generally." The "Gazette" adds that the tone of the papers in St. Petersburg is becoming "more and more hard and offensive towards Austria;" and it imagines that the checks recently received by the Austrian policy in Servia and the Danubian Principalities are more owing to Russian than to French influence.

ITALY.

THE bill authorising the Sardinian Government to contract a loan of £2,000,000 has passed the Sardinian Chamber by a majority of 116 to 35. Signor Lanza stated, in eloquent terms, the reasons that led the Government to take this step, and Count Cavour further expounded that policy. We gave a summary of his speech in a second edition last week. He said:—

"Our consistent policy has been at all times national, and never of a revolutionary character. Austria has lately taken a menacing attitude towards us. It has increased its military forces at Piacenza. It has collected very large forces at our frontiers. Therefore, the necessity arises for us to look for means for the defence of the State. The English alliance has always been the constant care of our whole political life. We have always considered England as the impregnable asylum of liberty. But, unfortunately, ever since 1836, England has been under the impression that it is for her interest to be in connection with Austria. She has thought to obtain in this Power, who has never assisted her on a single battle-field, though often opposed to her on those of diplomacy, an ally in her Eastern policy. This connection will have little effect upon her opinion and conduct as far as it relates to South and Central Italy, but will exercise a sensible influence upon it in all that concerns the north of the Peninsula. Her opinions of the Neapolitan and the Papal Government remain identical with those she held three years ago; but with regard to the northern provinces, and those on the left bank of the Po, they have undergone a change for which we who are nearer them can discover no reason. The cries of grief that went up from Naples, Rome, and Bologna, have penetrated with their full force to the banks of the Thames; but unhappily those uttered by Milan and Venice are interrupted by the Austrian Alps. This is serious, gentlemen; I do not deny it, but I am not altogether discouraged. I feel confidence in the good sense and generosity of the English nation. I know—and I know by experience—that with the English public the cause of truth and justice ends in triumph; I know that the principle of liberty and every noble cause will find warm and eloquent advocates, and that, whenever it is possible to speak clearly and without restraint to this great nation, success will be on the side of reason, progress, and civilisation."

In conclusion the Count said:—"I think, gentlemen, that I have shown you that our policy has not been inconsiderate, nor our acts provocative. In asking you for the means of defence we have no intention of changing this policy, we have no intention of proceeding to offensive acts, but at the same time we have no intention of remaining silent when Austria menaces us, and crowds our frontier with her troops. This policy, frankly and honestly declared, will, I hope, receive the approbation not only of the members of this Chamber, but of every loyal-hearted man in Europe."

The King of Sardinia is about to marry Maria Maximiliowna, daughter of Eugène Beauharnais Leuchtenberg's widow, the Grand Duchess Maria, of Russia. The lady is eighteen years old.

Several political arrests have been made at Leghorn. A special envoy, Cardinal Brunelli, has been despatched from Rome to the French court.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

TURKEY has protested against the double election of Couza, and has claimed the convocation of a European conference to debate the matter. Reports of ministerial changes are current.

A conspiracy has been discovered at Jassy. Fifty persons have been arrested; among them M. Gregory Stourdza.

There is also news of a serious riot between the Greek and Ionian population of Soulinea; on hearing which the Sultan's Government sent off 1,500 troops, while Sir H. Bulwer despatched the *Wanderer* gunboat with Mr. Vice-Consul Wroth to investigate the affair.

Prince Milosch, after his "solemn entry" into Belgrade, proclaimed himself, without heeding the Sultan's protest, hereditary sovereign of Servia. A few days after he dissolved the Skupstschina. A committee, composed of thirty-four members of the Skupstschina, is to complete the labours of that assembly. M. Wutschitsch has been sent to prison, and is to be tried on a charge of having appropriated to his own use certain large sum, the property of the State.

AMERICA.

THE Washington letter-writers continue to speculate on the chances of the Cuban project and the various propositions afloat in regard to the tariff, but nothing definite has occurred upon either subject.

In the Senate, resolutions, declaring it to be the duty of the Govern-

ment to endeavour to effect the removal of the restrictions imposed by foreign countries on American tobacco, have been adopted.

A preamble and resolutions, setting forth that there is strong reason to apprehend that the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade are to be set at defiance, and their violation openly countenanced and encouraged by the citizens of a portion of the States; that the existing laws against the slave trade should remain unchanged; and that the President should at all times be sustained in enforcing such laws, were read, and a motion made to suspend the rules to permit of their being introduced. The motion was defeated by a majority of 115 yeas to 84 nays.

From Central America we learn that Sir William Gore Ouseley, the British Minister, had arrived at Leon, and after the customary presentation ceremonies, proceeded at once to the work of negotiating a treaty with the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Nicaragua. The Costa Rican Congress had held an extra session, and ratified the contract entered into between Nicaragua and Costa Rica on the one hand, and Messrs. Belly and Milland on the other, with reference to the transit route.

CHINA.

THE latest intelligence of Lord Elgin's movements merely amounts to a statement that his squadron had advanced more than two-thirds of the way to Han-kow, and was moving very slowly owing to the lowness of the river at this season of the year. It is also reported that his Excellency has been compelled to leave the large vessels and continue his voyage with the gun-boats alone, and that the rebels were making preparations to arrest the progress of the expedition on its return down the river.

Intelligence from Cochin China states that the allied forces were about to advance on Saigon, and continued to suffer much from sickness, attributed to rain and damp. The Annamese were said to be building forts on the river leading to Hue, and to be making other preparations for resisting the invaders. Ten of them who had been made prisoners contrived to escape from the camp, and among these was a nephew of the King. Intelligence had been received of the death, from starvation, of Bishop Retford, who was known to be confined not very far from Tuyen.

CANADA.

THE Canadian Parliament was opened on the 29th ult. The Governor-General in his speech says, referring to the seat of Government question:—"The Legislature solicited our gracious Queen to exercise her prerogative in making such a selection; an act, moreover, was passed adopting beforehand the decision of her Majesty and appointing the necessary funds. This act of the Canadian Parliament and the decision of the Queen are binding on the executive government of the province, and it will be their duty to carry out the understanding which existed at the time when the reference was made, by which the Government will be transferred to Quebec for a fixed period, until the necessary arrangements shall have been completed." In regard to the federation of the British provinces, he says: "The possibility of uniting by some tie of a federal character the British colonies in North America, has formed the subject of correspondence, which will be placed in your hands. I will also cause to be submitted to you despatches from her Majesty's Secretary of State in relation to the questions affecting the Hudson's Bay Company, and on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway."

INDIA.

THE telegraph informs us that "The rebellion in Oude is entirely suppressed. The Begum and some followers have gone by night marches into Nepal, partly forcing her way, partly bribing; the sepoys of her party said to be plundering the Nepal villages. The Nena supposed to be with the Begum. Brigadier Showers, with a column from Agra, came up with the rebels under Tania Topee, at Boshah, on the 16th of January, having marched ninety-four miles in three days. They defeated and dispersed them, killing about 300. Three chiefs fell on the field, and one, on an elephant, was overtaken and killed by Lieutenant Hatfield, of the Agra Police Cavalry. On the same day a body of rebels crossed the River Sarlahi into Rohilkund, but were driven back."

From Allahabad we learn that "The Commissioner of Rohilkund reports that the rebels, who numbered from 20,000 to 30,000, were defeated with slaughter, and driven across the Sarlahi, their guns taken, and Nurput Singh of Rooza and Bence Singh killed."

"There has been a disturbance in the Nizam's territory, and parties of marauders, composed of Rohilla Arabs and Deccanees, are doing much mischief on the border of Berar."

"The Daruty Commissioner, while at Rissade on the 15th of January, was attacked. Brigadier Hill Howard came to his assistance. Some fighting ensued, and in the pursuit of the enemy several casualties occurred among our officers."

A NEW PRESIDENCY.

THE Government has resolved that a separate Lieutenant-Governorship for the territories on the extreme northern frontier of her Majesty's Indian empire shall be established; and that the Punjab, the tracts commonly called the "Trans-Sutlej States," the "Cis-Sutlej States," and the "Delhi Territory," shall form the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor.

The new presidency contains a population, including both subjects and dependents, of nearly 22,000,000, and will shortly be garrisoned by an army of 17,000 Europeans and 45,000 Sikhs. Sir John Lawrence's successor in this post has been at length definitively selected in the person of Mr. Montgomery, the Chief Commissioner of Oude. The choice lay between him and Mr. Edmondstone, and the latter has been preferred for the North-west Provinces.

RELIGIOUS RIOT AT TINNEVELLY.

MADRAS has been the scene of a religious riot, in which numbers of lives have been unnecessarily sacrificed. Nowhere in India is there so large a Christian population as at Tinnevely. Nowhere is the Hindoo population more fanatical. The authorities, always desirous of avoiding contention between the idolaters and Christians, have been accustomed to give in to the prejudices of the Brahmins. Christian funeral processions have usually been prohibited from passing in front of the pagodas, and even in streets occupied by high caste Hindoos. Such pretensions have never been listened to in Calcutta, where Christian funerals pass daily before the temples of Bunneahs and Brahmins without remark. In the present instance, a Christian funeral procession passed in front of the great Tinnevely pagoda. The Brahmins, trusting to long-continued tolerance on the part of the authorities, attempted to prevent the passage of the funeral. A row ensued. The Christians were stoned by the Brahmins, and it became necessary to send for a force to restore order. Unfortunately, three companies of sepoys were brought in from Palamcottah, and fire-arms were used. The result was that thirty-nine persons in the crowd were killed. Experience shows that mobs of Hindoo religionists are easily dispersed without the use of fire-arms. Riots arising from causes similar to those which marked that of Tinnevely have been put down easily by the police with sticks, and there is no reason to doubt that a firm and determined magistrate, backed by a few resolute policemen, armed with staves, would have got the upper hand of the mob in the present instance. The use of fire-arms on the occasion seems, therefore, inexcusable. Religious fanaticism runs riot in the Presidency of Madras, but it is much to be regretted that a massacre like that of Tinnevely should have taken place at the present time, when all our efforts should be directed towards allaying differences and securing peace.

THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF AUSTRIA.—The "Moniteur de la Flotte" enters into elaborate calculations to show that the military strength of Austria in time of peace is represented by 400,000 men, and in time of war by 750,000 men. The Austrian navy, which is of very recent creation, is inferior in strength to the navies of the two leading Italian powers, Sardinia and Naples; it is composed of 135 vessels, armed with 852 guns, and manned by 8,707 seamen.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

HER MAJESTY'S reply to the petition of the Legislative Assembly of the Ionian State, for the union with Greece, was read by Mr. Gladstone to the Assembly on the 5th inst., and is as follows:—

"Her Majesty has taken into her gracious consideration the prayer of the petition presented by the Legislative Assembly of the Ionian Islands with reference to the interests of the islands themselves, of the States in their neighbourhood, and of the general peace."

"Having regard to these objects, Her Majesty, invested as she is by the Treaty of Paris with the exclusive protectorate of the Ionian State, and constituted the sole organ of that State in the councils of Europe, can neither consent to abandon the obligations she has undertaken, nor can convey, or permit, any application to any other Power in furtherance of any similar design."

"Her Majesty does not desire to impose new fetters on opinion; but she will enforce, wherever it is placed in her charge, the sacred duty of obedience to the laws."

"Her Majesty has adopted, on her part, the measures which she deems most conducive to the good of the Ionian people; and she awaits the enlightened co-operation of their Parliament."

Mr. Gladstone has also laid before the Senate the plans of the British Government for reforms in the constitution of the islands. The chief provisions are these:—

"That the civil government of the Ionian State should henceforward consist of a Presidency; a Parliament, comprising a Legislative Senate and a Legislative Assembly; a President and Council of Ministers; and a Judicial Authority, together with the necessary subordinate officers."

"That while the Lord High Commissioner will appoint and remove the members, they will, in order to their due harmony with the Legislative body, hold office during pleasure only; and he shall be bound to remove them on a joint address to that effect from the two Chambers."

"That, with the exception of such heads as Her Majesty shall by Order in Council, within a time to be limited, declare to be requisite for the discharge of his office as protecting Sovereign, all acts in which the Lord High Commissioner now has sole authority shall be performed by him only with the countersignature of a responsible minister; and all acts in which he has now an authority concurrent with the Senate, shall be done without his intervention by the Council of Ministers, or a member thereof."

"That as to all new laws, it shall be sufficient, in lieu of reciting therein the approval of the Lord High Commissioner, that there be substituted his simple assent, without which they shall not take effect."

"That the Senate, divested wholly of its initiative and executive powers, shall simply have a vote upon all bills for granting a civil list or budget and regarding taxes, and a concurrent authority with the Assembly in regard to all other bills."

"That the majority of the Senate be elected, for a lengthened term, by a special constituency; and that the minor part be nominated by the Lord High Commissioner, for the same term, with the concurrence of the Ministry, from among persons qualified in a manner to be determined."

"That the Assembly shall have exclusive power to impose taxes, and to authorise public expenditure."

ABDICATION OF THE EMPEROR OF HAYTI.

THE revolution in Hayti is successful. The Emperor has abdicated. It appears that on arriving with his troops at Port-au-Prince, General Geffard sent a flag of truce to the Emperor, offering him his life and protection to his family if he would abdicate. Soulouque demanded time to consider, which was allowed him, but before the allotted time had expired the Imperial troops laid down their arms and made common cause with the followers of Geffard. The Emperor, no longer left to his choice, proceeded to make out his papers of abdication, and on the 15th ult. he caused the following proclamation to be made:—

"Haytiens,—Called by the will of my people to govern the destinies of Hayti, all my care and anxieties have constantly been for the welfare of my citizens and the prosperity of my country. I held hopes that I could have relied on the affections of those who elevated me to the supreme power; but the last events that have taken place do not permit to doubt the true sentiments of the people. I have too much friendship for my country to hesitate in sacrificing myself for the good of all. I abdicate, and have only one wish, that Hayti may be as happy as my heart has always desired."

A gentleman writing from Hayti, says:—"It is spoken of here as a glorious revolution, as thousands of weapons were drawn, but not a single life lost. President Geffard is a soldier every inch of him. The Emperor and his partisans have received all the kindness and protection that a truly noble and humane man could give them. The mob was ready to tear them to pieces, if they had not been restrained by the President."

The Emperor Soulouque is said to be immensely rich; his wealth is estimated at upwards of £500,000, banked in Europe. At the breaking out of the revolution he had at the palace £30,000 in gold and two millions of paper dollars; the paper money he had to leave, which the mob divided among themselves, and a good deal of gold was found in the Empress and Princess's rooms. The mob took it all. He carried a large amount of money and valuables with him to Jamaica, to which island he was accompanied by the Empress, two daughters of the Emperor, and their attendants; General Vil de Ben, governor of the capital; General Desalines, prefect of police; and General Baron Damier, Secretary of State.

LA GUERRE.

M. GIRARDIN has added another to the various documents about the much-anticipated war in Italy. He is opposed to the war—to this particular war. He does not wish that France should encourage Piedmont to make a little quarrel with Austria, and should then enter upon a campaign for the redemption of Italy. Some people urge that every new dynasty which desires to perpetuate itself must bring with it a dotation for its descendants, and that Napoleon the Third must choose one or the other of these imperious alternatives—either glory with territorial, or liberty with moral, ascendancy. But M. Girardin says a mere war in Italy would solve neither of these questions; it would neither regenerate the Peninsula nor establish the Imperial throne. "How would you settle Italy?" he asks his countrymen, "when you have driven out the Germans? Would you keep up the reigning Princes? would you place the Pope at the head of a Confederation? But, in both cases, you offend the Liberal party, who look on the Papacy as the inspiration and the Princes as the tools of the Austrian Court. And how would you compensate Austria in order to reconcile her to a cession of territory without years of war? Then there is Poland. Poland has always been more in French thoughts than any other oppressed State. Why should she be forgotten? And, if her turn is to come, what will your new ally Russia say?" M. de Girardin then goes on to argue that the evils of which the Papacy is the cause would not be cured by a war which gave it increased power and made it the keystone of Italian nationality. He then goes on to discuss the position of Sicily, and finds that her moral influence would not be advanced by hostilities; that her safety is secured by the French alliance, and that the best thing would be to reduce her army, and wait until Austria fell under the pressure of gigantic war establishments, necessitated by the neighbourhood of a free Italian State. Away with the notion of this paltry war, which would merely drive the Austrian for a time out of country into which he would again infallibly enter. But, if war be thought necessary to France as a diversion from internal matters; if the dynasty requires to be consolidated by glory; if it be judged that the moment has at last come to choose between liberty and glory, then let it be a war worth the undertaking; let it be a war which will repay its cost—a war which will avenge Waterloo, which will give to France her lost frontiers, which will place Europe in equilibrium, which will put an end to the burdensome charges of an armed peace—a logical war, which may leave conquerors and conquered, but not oppressors and oppressed—a war which will abolish the feudality of the seas by the neutrality of the Straits—a war in which force should be at the service of ideas; in a word, let it be the last revolution of the Old World, "expiring and giving place to the New World, announced by the captive of St. Helena and the prisoner of Ham." The natural and necessary ally of France in such a war would be Russia. A third ally would do more harm than good. Better have England and Prussia declared enemies than embarrassing neutrals. As for Austria—such empire without homogeneity—it would be no longer necessary to think of her. She would fall to pieces of herself. But what would be the result of this war? The partition of Europe into two empires—that of the West and that of the East, as divined and announced by M. de Persigny in 1841. But this result might be obtained peacefully, but it would be necessary that England, confident in her industrial supremacy, should not hesitate to give the example of sacrifice, proud of dismantling with her own hands Gibraltar, Malta, Corfu, Aden, Perim.

However, France wants extension of territory, Russia free access to the sea. Let the alliance be concluded, then, on these terms:—To France a share of the Rhine, to Russia a share of the Mediterranean. The freedom of the seas would be accomplished by depriving England of every post which is so placed as to command a strait.

But our readers have had enough of these ravings.

IRELAND.

THE LATE CASE OF WIFE MURDER IN DUBLIN.—Thomas Black, who murdered his wife in Dublin a short time since by stabbing her in the side with a chisel, was indicted on the capital charge on Thursday week, before the Hon. Baron Richards and Mr. Justice Ball. The jury found him guilty of manslaughter, only acquitting him of the charge of wilful murder on the ground of being intoxicated at the time of the commission of the crime. He was sentenced to penal servitude for ten years.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN AND THE PHOENIX CLUB.—Mr. Smith O'Brien has sent a five pound note to a fund now in course of collection to aid in the defence of the Phoenix Club conspirators, called the "Fair Trial Fund," and a long letter, vindicating his course, is sent with the money. He deprecates secret combinations, he is ignorant of the aims of the Phoenix Club; but he considers that the alleged conspirators have been tyrannically dealt with, and deprived of all the ordinary guarantees of personal liberty. Mr. O'Brien sailed for the United States on Saturday.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—In Ireland in the year 1858 there were 610,717 horses, 3,661,594 cattle (including 1,633,378 milch cows), 3,187,785 sheep, and only 1,402,812 pigs. The pigs, however, have increased since 1857 from 1,255,186 to 1,402,812, and of these 1,073,100 are under one year of age. The value of the live stock is estimated to be as follows:—viz., horses, £1,885,736; cattle, £23,800,361; sheep, £3,836,563; and pigs, £1,553,515, making a grand total of £34,276,175 against £33,700,916 in 1857. Sir W. Donnelly, the learned Registrar-General, reiterates his annual, but apparently unheeded protest against the pernicious growth of weeds in Ireland, unfortunately prevalent throughout the country; and he states that an anxious desire is generally expressed for some legislative enactment to protect the improving farmer who cleans his land from the woeful injury inflicted on his crops by the winged or flying seeds of noxious weeds carried by the wind from the field of some lazy or negligent neighbour. The above returns are accompanied by a blue-book which gives the extent of the land under crops in Ireland for the year 1858. It appears that last year there were 2,748,401 acres of land lying under cereal crops (551,886 under wheat and 1,976,929 under oats) against 2,786,828 acres in 1857; 1,617,958 acres lay under green crops (1,100,056 under potatoes and 337,877 under turnips). The total increase in the extent of land under crops last year was 23,375 acres.

SCOTLAND.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CRINAN CANAL.—The bursting of a reservoir has destroyed the Crinan Canal—a water-way of great importance to the west coast of Scotland. After an unprecedented wet season, on the evening of the 2nd, one of the reservoirs, becoming overcharged, suddenly burst and precipitated itself into the one beneath; which also giving way, the contents of both bounded into a third; and, with a roar which shook the country for miles round, an avalanche of water, rocks, and earth, rolled down the mountain side, furrowing a deep watercourse in its way, and instantly obliterating the canal under a mountain of thousands of tons of rocks and stones. The vast body of water, separating into two great waves, rolled away to the east and west, breaking up lock-gates like tinder; and, tunnelling vast chasms through the banks, the waters found vent over the open country, the one by the town of Lochgilphead into Loch Fyne, the other over the Crinan moor, into the western sea. The face of the country was strewn with mud, stones, peat, fragments of corn-stacks, uprooted bushes, and broken timber, in a "wonderful manner." Though the loss of property is immense, yet not a single life was lost. For two miles the canal is destroyed, the banks being cut up by chasms like railway cuttings. Ardrishaig was only saved by the immediate opening of the sluices and giving vent to the water, which must, had the bank given way, have swept the village into the sea.

THE PROVINCES.

BURSTING OF A CANAL.—The canal at Hoyle Mill, near Barnsley, burst on Friday. The water ran down at a tremendous rate, carrying away walls, trees, and everything that lay in the track it took. As morning dawned it was found that the canal had been drained for about four miles and a half, the water remaining being less than a foot deep. The water had forced its way through the soil, and descending into the valley below had done a considerable amount of damage, particularly to the growing crops, running under the soil and forcing it upwards.

INCENDIARISM BY JUVENILES.—A stack was set on fire by some mischievous children, at Haycliff Farm, near Dover, on Sunday. Nearly a dozen boys were playing near the spot, and one of them, a lad about thirteen years of age, in a spirit of bravado, applied a lucifer-match to a large corn-stack, which soon burst into a blaze, and was more than half destroyed before the means employed for extinguishing the flames were successful in that object. Two of the boys, viz., Jules Daniel, who set fire to the stack, and Louis Masson, an older boy, both the sons of French poulterers carrying on business in Dover, were brought before the magistrates, and committed to the next court assizes for trial on charge of arson.

MYSTERIOUS FIRES.—No less than seven times in fourteen days the premises of a Mrs. Bedford, who carries on the business of a miller at Wroughton, near Swindon, have been in flames. In two places at once the fire broke out on the 31st ult., at night. The police and others, who helped to extinguish it, had scarcely departed, than the miller went out to look round, and found another building in flames. On the 2nd inst., again, a thatched building was on fire. On Sunday morning, again, two buildings at one time were in flames. One or two cottages occupied by labourers are within a stone's throw, otherwise the house is isolated.

CRUELTY ON BOARD SHIP.—Captain M'Clay, of the ship Merchant Prince, and Robert Lloyd, first mate, were on Saturday charged at Liverpool with having committed an assault on a seaman named Hunter, who joined the Merchant Prince at Bombay on the 28th of October last. The complainant stated that about two o'clock on the morning of the 20th January, when at sea, he was called down into the cabin, where the captain struck him on the head with a roller, and the mate also beat him with a life-preserver, and twisted his arms behind his back till they were in danger of dislocation. The poor fellow's head bore evident marks of recent cruelty—a large scar extending about three inches on the left side. The steward, John Ferguson, and a seaman named James Ready, corroborated the evidence of the complainant, who was laid up for a fortnight through the ill-usage. For the defence it was endeavoured to be shown that Hunter was the aggressor, having first tried to use his sheath-knife on the captain. The magistrates (Messrs. Alfred Castellain and G. Holt) agreed with the plea adduced for the defence, and dismissed the summons. The decision was received with strong marks of disapprobation. Lloyd, the first mate, was afterwards fined £5 and costs for a wanton attack on a coloured seaman named Brown, on board the same vessel.

THE BURNOPFIELD MURDER.—A man, at present under sentence of four years' penal servitude in Portland Prison, has confessed to having shot Mr. Stirling at Burnopfield, three years ago. This is the second time within a very short period that this murder has been confessed to. This new statement must be well sifted, no less in the interest of public justice, than of the two men, Rayne and Cain, who so nearly died for the crime. The conduct of these men since their trial, favours the belief that they are innocent. Rayne follows his trade of a smith at Winton, and conducts himself with great propriety. Cain has abandoned the business of smuggling, and has the charge of a gentleman's garden in Blaydon. He has held this situation creditably ever since his acquittal at the Durham Assizes in 1856.

DARING IMPOSITION.—Shortly after the execution, at York, of John Taylor Whitworth, for the murder of Sally Hare, near Workson, a woman presented herself at York Castle, stating that she was the mother of Whitworth, and had come to see her son. She told Mr. Noble, the governor, that she had been put to the greatest pecuniary inconvenience by her journey, which she had taken in ignorance of the day of execution; a story which opened the hearts of several generous ones, and she returned with some considerable "pecuniary assistance." However it has since been discovered that the woman was not Whitworth's mother, nor at all known to the family.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—An interesting discovery was last week made on the estate of Sir George Hampson, at Thurnham. While some men were engaged in levelling what appeared to be a chalk mound in a field almost on the brow of Thurnham-hill, after digging through the chalk to the depth of between two and three feet they came to the natural soil, and on going about a foot and a half lower they found the remains of a number of human beings lying in a circle, in regular order round the mound, with their heads pointing to the centre, and the feet of others meeting the heads of those placed in the outside row. The remains of a horse were also found lying with them, but there were no relics of any description to indicate to what people of a bygone age they belonged. The bones were in a remarkable state of preservation, considering the length of time the bodies must needs have been deposited there, certainly not later than the earlier period of the Saxon invasion, 1,500 years ago—the perfect skeleton being traced as they lay in the soil, but not admitting of removal in that state. One of the skulls has been placed in the Maidstone Museum. The mound was of considerable size, and the chalk at top had evidently been shot on to the earth. The remains of seven bodies were found in the space of about three rods, and by far the greater portion of the mound still remains undisturbed.

THE NAVY, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

THE navy estimates for 1859-60 have been published. The last vote, for the financial year 1858-9, according to the revised estimates, and including the supplementary vote of £30,000 for dockyard labourers, amounted to £8,851,371; the estimates for the present year amount to £9,813,181, showing a net increase of £961,810.

In six heads out of the seventeen which comprise these estimates, there is a decrease, viz., victuals for seamen, £31,710; wages abroad, £341; new works in yards, £12,304; miscellaneous services, £3,522; conveyance of troops, £210,500; the total decrease being £258,437. The main items of increase are in wages of seamen, which are £85,463 more than last year, wages of artificers in dockyards, £321,109 more, and building of ships, £781,498 more. The two latter items of increase are explained in a note to be to meet the extraordinary charge to be incurred during the year in consequence of the additional work to be undertaken for the building and commission of ships of war for the steam navy, and providing machinery for the same.

In addition to these estimates for 1859-60, there is a supplemental vote of £133,383 to be taken for excess of naval expenditure in the year ended March 31, 1858.

The details of the extraordinary charge required for the so-called "reconstruction of the navy," are given as follows:—"For the purchase of timber, masts, deals, &c., £82,800; for the purchase of other stores, £17,200; for the purchase and repair of steam machinery, £335,000; for ships to be built by contract, £252,000." The other extraordinary charge is for wages. It will be distributed thus:—For earnings for the established workmen beyond day pay provided for by the ordinary estimate, £131,735; for wages of hired artificers, &c., to be employed, £165,972; for additional pay of officers superintending shipwright labour, £1,000—the total being £298,707.

The total number of officers, seamen, and boys to be voted for the service of the year is 47,400, and the number of marines, 15,000. Of these, 4,000 officers and seamen are to be employed in the coastguard service afloat, and 3,400 officers and men in the same service on shore; thus, the navy proper includes 40,000 men, and the coastguard, 7,400.

The estimate for the Post Office department (packet service) for the year 1859-60, separate from the navy estimates, but prepared by the Naval department, is £991,596, being an increase of £2,108 over the last vote for the financial year 1858-9.

As to the present state of affairs in the navy, we give the results arrived at by two very competent hands. Mr. Reed, late of the Portsmouth Dockyard, in a recent survey of the state of the navy, represented its strength as follows:—51 line-of-battle ships, 9 blockships, 28 frigates, 13 corvettes, 8 smaller corvettes, 4 mortar frigates, 8 floating batteries, 27 sloops, 26 gunvessels, 163 gunboats—total, 337.

Every single vessel of the fleet thus constituted is of the very best kind as regards both propulsion and armament. All the ships alike, from the heaviest three-decker to the smallest gunboat, are not only steamers, but screw-steamers, and they mount guns which are, or, at least, were, considered the most formidable they could carry. So much for our first-class Screw Steam Navy. After these vessels there follow no fewer than 75 steamers propelled by paddles—a machinery gone rather out of fashion, but which is, nevertheless, considered by Sir Howard Douglas as possessing not only utility, but, possibly, even certain advantages. To complete the tale we have 201 sailing vessels of war, making an aggregate of 613 fighting ships, bearing 15,140 guns, and carrying among them engines of nearly 100,000 horse power.

We now subjoin the estimate of Sir Howard Douglas himself, in his recent treatise on "Naval Warfare" with steam. He there presents us with a complete list of the British Steam Navy, the armament and horse-power of every vessel being appended to its name. The summary of this table runs as follows:—32 steamers of 90 guns and upwards; 32 of 50 to 90 guns; 27 of 20 to 50 guns; 127 of 20 and under; 186 steam gunboats; 40 steam tenders, storeships, and tugs. In the second of these items ten of the vessels are 80-gun ships, one a 70, and nine 60's, being the "blockships" in Mr. Reed's list. Of sailing ships Sir Howard takes no account, as they do not enter into the considerations with which he is immediately concerned.

It is rumoured, we know not with what truth, that the delay in the production of Sir John Pakington's plans for providing for the defence of the country by the navy, is caused by important differences of opinion on that subject within the Cabinet. It is also again asserted that an extensive system of fortifications has received the partial sanction of the Government, and is likely to be brought shortly under the consideration of the Legislature. That scheme is not, it seems, to consist of a continuous line of circumvallation, but of a series of fortifications, properly so termed, placed at intervals along the whole of our seaboard, so as to afford strength and protection to an army of defence.

THE ENGLISH SCREW STEAMER INEZ DE CASTRO has been lost on the coast of Portugal.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—The first operation connected with the progress of the Great Eastern steam ship, under the new company, to whom she has so recently been transferred, took place on Monday, when the massive wrought iron intermediate shaft for the paddle-engines, was hauled on board. The operation was in a certain degree an interesting one, both from the fact that the shaft is the largest piece of forged iron ever manufactured, its weight being nearly forty tons, and also that it was to be placed on board by the new patent derrick. It will be remembered that in the construction of the intermediate shaft in question, the contractors for the paddle-engines of the Great Eastern have had to encounter one of their greatest difficulties, owing to the uncertainty of being enabled to forge such a ponderous mass of iron without leaving flaws. No less than four have been manufactured, three of which turned out to be faulty upon trial, but the fourth was found to be perfectly sound. The small wooden derrick, belonging to the Patent Derrick Company, took the shaft on board from Mr. Scott Russell's yard, and brought it alongside the ship. Chains were quickly made fast to it, and the operation of hauling the ponderous mass of iron on board was performed with the greatest ease and facility in about seven or eight minutes. The shaft was deposited on a wooden bed, close to the bulwarks, on the port side of the ship, and although its weight with the attached chains was considerably over forty tons, the "trim" of the vessel was not in the least altered. The whole operation was most successfully performed, and fully demonstrated the useful application of the derrick in hoisting heavy weights into ships from the water.

AN ENGLISHMAN CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN SPAIN.—A Mr. Duncombe Jones Parry is condemned to death for having assaulted a Spanish sentinel in the vicinity of Gibraltar. He belongs to a good family of Wales, and is only twenty-one years of age. In addition to assaulting the sentinel, it is said that he knocked down a gendarme who went to the soldier's defence. At the moment of the assault he was in the company of several English officers, and of a young lady named Pemberton. The cause of the assault was that the sentinel, in obedience to orders, tried to prevent him from riding on a certain site. The "Correspondencia Autografa" intimates that the Queen "will probably spare his life."

DREADFUL FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—Between the hours of five and six o'clock on Saturday morning, a fearful fire broke out on premises belonging to a Mr. Walton, a dealer, of High Street, Whitechapel. Soon after the discovery of the disaster, a fire escape arrived, and brought three persons down from the second-floor front window. The conductor then raised his upper ladders to the third floor, and passed three other persons down in safety. There were still two female servants in a back room on the third-floor. Conductor Wood reached the apartment; but the handle of the door was very hot, and whilst he was endeavouring, with the aid of his coat, to turn the lock, the door fell upon him. However, he managed to crawl on his hands and knees to the front window, where the flames had preceded him, and had actually set fire to the top of the machine; he was obliged to get out head foremost, nearly stifled with smoke. He next unshipped the short ladder of his escape, by great exertions succeeded in placing it on the roof of the next house, and managed to get to the room where the unfortunate women were; but it was then in one body of flame. A few minutes longer, and the whole of the interior of the building fell with a loud crash. The engines went to work in an admirable manner, but the only good they could do was to protect the adjoining houses, the premises in which the misfortune commenced being totally consumed. Search was afterwards made for the bodies of the poor women. One was found lying across the other in the cellar. The foreman, a person named Watford, rushed through the fire, and made his escape at the front door, but was so badly burnt that he was obliged to be taken to the hospital. The origin of the fire is unknown.

THE CITY OF BELGRADE.

BELGRADE, the scene of the recent Servian revolution, is situated on the confluence of the Save and the Danube, and contains about 30,000 inhabitants. It is divided into four parts: 1st, the fort, which is not considered to stand on Servian ground, but belongs to Turkey, and is separated from the other portions of the city by a glacis 400 paces broad; 2nd, the so-called Water-town, situated on the north, at the confluence of the two rivers, and surrounded by a wall and a moat; 3rd, the Servian town, lying westward, on the Save, and surrounded by palisades; 4th, the Palanka, which runs south and east of the Fort. On the opposite bank of the Danube stands the Austrian fortress, Semlin.

The city of Belgrade has a perfectly oriental character. Seen from a distance, its aspect is singularly beautiful. The glistening waves of the two rivers—the rocky eminence crowned by the towers and walls of the fortress—the slender white minarets, shooting up on all sides, and the range of green hills in the background—all make up a picture which the eye rests on with singular pleasure. But on a nearer view, and especially when seen internally, Belgrade is as unpicturesque and as dirty as all the other towns of the Lower Danube. But if the eye be shocked and disappointed, the nose is no less offended by the pestilential effluvia arising from decayed vegetable matter, dead dogs, cats, and other horrors, thickly strewn about in the narrow ill-paved streets. The houses are miserably built, and their overhanging shingle roofs are in such a state of decay as continually to threaten the safety of the passers-by. The streets are infested by starving dogs, which have no owners; and pigs and even cows are suffered to stray about at large, seeking whatever they can devour. The filth of every description thus accumulated in the streets of Belgrade, frequently renders them unfit to be trodden by civilised feet. The coffee houses are dirty, smoky hovels, and the shops are mere stalls. Only a dozen or two of the best houses in the city are furnished with glazed windows. The residence of Prince Alexander, though a neat structure, has no claim to grandeur of character; and the other buildings belonging to the Government, are all alike devoid of beauty and solidity. The Greek church is, however, a handsome building; so likewise is the Austrian consulate (situated on the pier), with its ground-floor close upon the Danube. Some of the other consulates, as well as the hotel called the "New Zdanja," may fairly be considered elegant houses. The ruins of the palace of Prince Eugène are highly interesting. A portion of the façade of the building is all that remains; and the wall is allowed to be a nestling-place for beggars and all sorts of vagabonds.

The unrestrained freedom of Oriental out-door life exists in full force



RESIDENCE OF THE DEPOSED PRINCE ALEXANDER OF SERVIA.

in Belgrade. Judging from the tumult and bustle, it might be imagined that the business of the whole world was transacted here. Baboush-makers, chibouque-turners, smiths, tinkers, bakers; in short, the members of honourable guilds of Servian and Turkish trade and manufactures, are grouped together in the streets, seated at their respective stalls, some at work, and others idly lounging, pipe in mouth, waiting for customers, or driving hard bargains with those who are inclined to purchase.

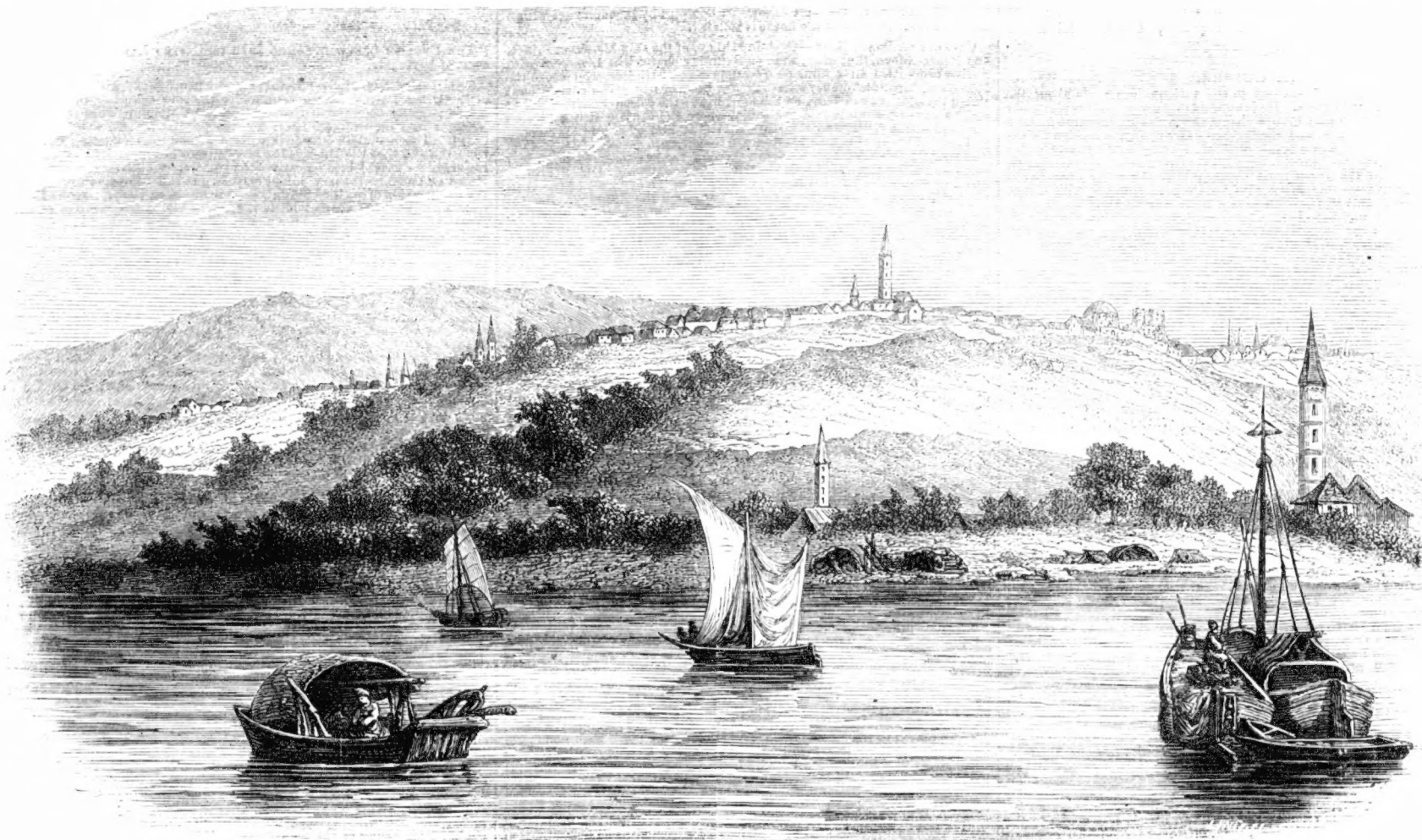
The mosques, of which there are fourteen in Belgrade, correspond in outward appearance with most of the other buildings in the city: that is to say, they are ruinous and dilapidated. The College of the Dervishes is curious on account of the ceremonies performed in it. It belongs to the sect of the Bidaui, whose worship is celebrated by howling and crying—unlike the well-known sect of the Mevlevi, who worship the deity by dancing.

The history of Belgrade down to the beginning of the present century, is marked by strange vicissitudes and sanguinary events. Situated between Constantinople and Vienna, this city may be said to be the key of south-eastern Hungary. It has always proved to be a place of vast strategical importance, and in the wars between Austria and the Porte it has repeatedly been the apple of discord between the contending powers.

In 1804 the Servians, under their leader George, threw off the yoke of the Sultan, shut themselves up in Belgrade, and in January, 1807, by capitulation got possession of the city. A regular government was then established, and Russia sent an ambassador to Belgrade. But

members of the Skuptschina, encouraged by the readiness with which their slightest desire had been met by Prince Milosch, seem to have become capricious and violent. The "Debats," in noticing the latest freaks of this political body, asserts that "the National Assembly of Belgrade has adopted a revolutionary attitude;" and it adds:—"The speeches of its members are marked by the extravagance, the violence, and the passions which recall certain moments of our history that are not very distant." Thus the Servian question, which was supposed to have been solved by the deposition of Prince Alexander and the restoration of Prince Milosch, appears decidedly to enter a revolutionary phasis, of which it is not easy to predict the issue."

TERRIBLE CALAMITY ON THE SEA OF AZOFF.—A terrible calamity befel Taganrog on the 21st ult. The weather being beautifully fine, many of the inhabitants, of all classes, were on the ice to some distance from land. All at once a storm came on, and the sea, breaking up the ice, rolled in on the land with great violence. It even broke over the cliffs near the town, and filled an extensive valley with water, transforming it literally into a marsh. The women, who had been left at home, assembled on the heights and the tops of houses offering up prayers for the lives of those on the ice or out at sea. Soon after dead bodies, frightfully mutilated, began to roll in, and people were seen on large fragments of the broken ice running to and fro in terror, or apparently deliberating as to what could be done. A great number were drowned, and many fishermen perished at sea.

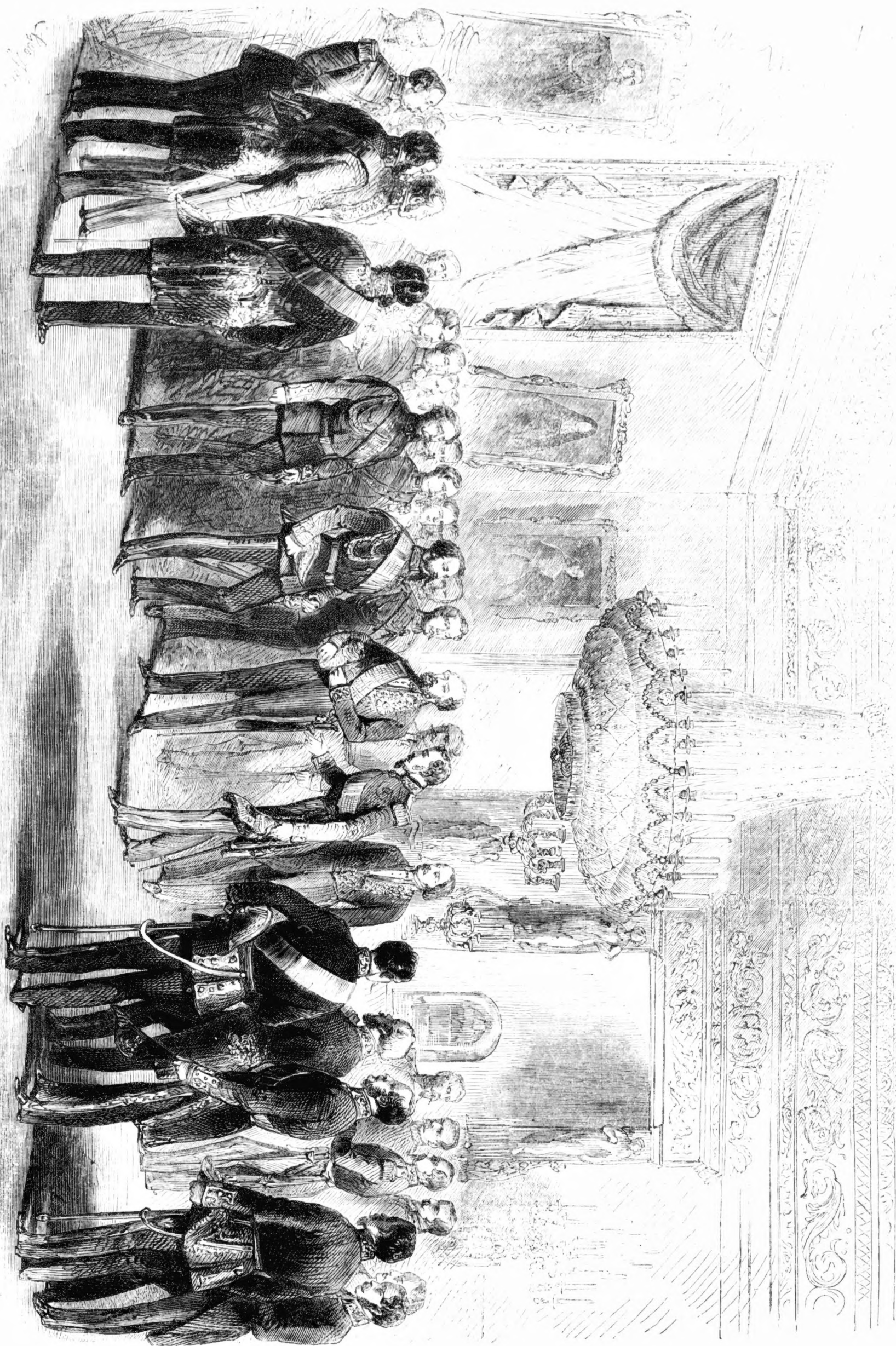


VIEW OF BELGRADE.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. ENDRES.)

Russian protection was soon felt to be burthen-some by the Servians, and in 1812 the place again became the scene of tumult and bloodshed. On one occasion, no less than 150 Servians were beheaded, and 37 shot, before the gates of Belgrade, and the city once more became subject to Turkish dominion. Even now, when Servia has gained comparative independence, the Porte holds the right of maintaining a garrison of three thousand men in the fortress of Belgrade.

The independence of Servia aforesaid has been asserted in rather a striking manner lately; and this it is which gives our illustrations their interest. Our readers remember that there was a period during the late insurrectionary movements in Servia when much attention was concentrated round that fortress of Belgrade, from whence, as well as from the neighbouring fortress of Semlin, it was thought not improbable the war of the "red artillery" might be heard. However, the danger has passed over for the time.

For the time, we say, because the Servian revolution, which in the beginning was distinguished by remarkable moderation, has assumed of late a decidedly anarchical character. The



GENERAL NIP, ASKING THE PRINCESS CLOTHILDE IN MARRIAGE.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. HENRI.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 37.

THE IMPRISONED EPIC—WHERE IS IT?

CARLYLE, in his "History of Frederick the Great," speaking through Saurteig, says, "All history is an imprisoned epic, nay, an imprisoned psalm or prophecy." A remarkable saying, and true, no doubt; but we warn all enthusiastic readers of Carlyle that this "imprisoned epic" is not to be found, after the most diligent search, in the debates of the House of Commons. We have looked long and steadily, and listened attentively, till the eye and ear got weary and the spirit heavy, and at last sleep came over eye and ear, and spirit; but we never could discover the slightest glimmering ray nor faintest tone of that same "imprisoned epic or psalm." If it be discoverable at all in the British House of Commons, it will be found in the residuum of solid, lasting, truthful work done, and not in the talk which is uttered. There lies the history, and there lies imprisoned the epic or psalm—if, indeed, history or epic are to be found in the House at all. The talk is only the chaff or froth of our history; or, to use another figure, the dust and fluff which are flung off from the "roaring loom of time." But, in truth, the greater part of our solid history, we apprehend, is to be found transacting itself in quite other quarters—in our fields, and marts, and shops, and domesticities, and, alas! also in our workhouses, and other abodes of squalid poverty and wretchedness. Now and then in the House—perhaps once in a quarter of a century—some notable feat is achieved; such, for instance, as knocking off, as was done thirteen years ago, the fetters from the limbs of the giant Commerce, so as to enable him to go and transact history on a grander scale; but, on the whole, what is done here in the way of history we believe will prove to be very little when the Muse which presides over the historic department shall have permanently sifted all our doings, and finally placed upon record the result. We lately tried to recall something worth remembering out of all the speeches which we have heard during the period of our attendance at the House, extending over a goodly number of years, and for a long time we had a difficulty in recalling anything. At last there came looming through the mist of the past a sentence of Drummond's upon "The True Object of Art;" and that capital aphorism of Lord Palmerston, that "Dirt is only matter in the wrong place." This was all. Nothing but these two grains of wheat amongst all the bushels and bushels of parliamentary chaff could we find. There have been some striking things said, no doubt, during that time. Gladstone has uttered some, and Lord John and Disraeli; but they were generally merely quotations or plagiarisms—sentiments advanced long since by the Foxes, Burkes, Pitts, and Chathams of a former day—airs stolen from former composers, and worked with more or less cunning into the modern opera, as modern composers are wont to do. If a reporter in the gallery were to determine to make a common-place book for the insertion of sentiments, arguments, and facts worth remembering, he would find its leaves all blank at the close of the session. All the facts which he heard he would at once recognize as excerpts from commercial dictionaries and other books of reference; the arguments as old, stale, and thrice-refuted fallacies, and the sentiments borrowed, or most of them were showy platitudes.

A FALLACY RUN TO EARTH.

Apropos to this, we call attention to that curious debate which broke out on Friday, on the motion for the adjournment of the House, in answer to a question from Mr. Tite, upon the subject of the proposed new Foreign-Office. The debate turned mainly upon the merits of Gothic architecture. Many of our subscribers, indeed all of them who are readers, are no doubt posted up in this subject. They have read Ruskin—his "Stones of Venice," his "Lectures at Edinburgh," &c., and made themselves masters of all that has been said *pro* and *con* on Gothic architecture. Let such turn to the debate, and we much mistake if they are not astonished at the profound ignorance there displayed. No subject has been more ably discussed, during the last dozen years, than this; but, on reading the debate, you would imagine that not a word had been written. Especially let them read the speech of Lord Palmerston, which is really worth a perusal as a curiosity. And particularly this sentence—"He objected to Gothic architecture. It was going back to the barbarous and dark ages for a building which ought to belong to the time in which they lived." *A building which ought to belong to the times in which they now lived!* What sort of building would that be, most Noble Lord? What is specially the architecture of the nineteenth century? Is it that of the National Gallery? Buckingham Palace? The Treasury? for these are the *chef d'œuvres* of the times in which we live. And then the Noble Lord said that a Gothic building "would be totally inapplicable to the purposes they wanted." And yet it is a fact, which every tyro knows, that amongst all the styles of architecture there is no style so ductile and plastic as the Gothic. You may make anything of it. You may build in this style a solemn cathedral, a convenient and appropriate town-hall, a handsome, cheerful, and pleasant residence for a country gentleman, a labourer's cottage, or a lodge. You may place a Gothic building in all sorts of situations, and it will never be out of place. It will harmonise with a closely packed street; it is a fine ornament in a spacious market-place; and it is not out of keeping, but far otherwise, with rural scenery. Nor is it a necessary concomitant, as Mr. Coningham asserted, that the chambers in a Gothic building are dark; but, on the contrary, you may have large bay windows, and you may pierce the walls or roofs to admit light wherever light is wanted, without fear of destroying the uniformity, or spoiling the proportions, of the building; and you may make everything about the erection ornamental. Even chimneys, which so bother the architect when he has to introduce them into a Greek building, may be made to contribute to the general effect, and water-pipes turned into ornaments. True, Westminster Palace is not a success, but there is no want of light. The business offices are lighter than those of any other public building. And if any one will look at the river front and that which looks towards the Abbey, he will see there a larger superficies of glass in proportion to the extent of front than he will find in any other building in London. The fault in Westminster Palace is misarrangement, which is not the fault of the style of architecture, but of the architect. Now all this is old, well-known, and thoroughly established, and the objection advanced by Lord Palmerston and Mr. Coningham may be classed amongst the hundred-times refuted fallacies which are so common to the House. How strange it is that "the collective wisdom" should be invariably the last haunt of a fallacy! But so it is. You may hunt a fallacy out of every other place in the kingdom, from the learned university to the village mechanics' institute, before you can get it out of the House of Commons. The poor hunted distressed fallacy can always run to earth, and find refuge there. Lord Palmerston says that "Somerset House is as beautiful as Westminster Abbey." Is there a member of a provincial institute would say the same? We hope not. Somerset House as beautiful as Westminster Abbey! And the age when Venice produced her glorious churches and palaces was "a barbarous age!" These are the last dicta of the foremost man of the "collective wisdom!" We have heard some strange things in the House during the past half-dozen years. In the last parliament there was a respectable old gentleman, formerly belonging to the medical profession, who used annually to indulge us, sometimes as late as one o'clock in the morning, with a tirade against vaccination, which, in his opinion, was worse than a failure. There are several honourable members now in the House, who, when the estimate for the National Gallery is on, do not scruple to say that in their opinion no possible good can come to the people from these picture-galleries. But on the whole, considering whence it came, this deliverance of the Noble Lord's is perhaps the strangest.

PRIVATE BILLS.

On Monday night the lobby showed that there must be something more than common before the House. At the early hour of four o'clock it was full of people. And it was easy to discern that these for the most part were not mere loungers, nor attracted there by the hope of hearing a debate. They were clearly men of business. Most of them had bundles of papers in their hands, were clustering round honourable members, and showed by their gestures that something was coming on in which they were specially interested. Lord Stanley's Indian debate

was the public business of the evening, but it was not that that attracted these early birds. They for the most part were parliamentary agents, come about the private and not the public business, come, like other early birds, with an eye to the worm. And the reason why they are here in such unusual numbers to-night is, that there is a very large number of private bills before the House: 153 private bills were down on Monday night for second reading—a number which has never been exceeded since the great railway mania; and this is but one-half of the whole which the House will have to consider this session! This unusually large number of private bills shows that money is plentiful. Last year, it will be remembered, there was a panic in the autumn—money was exceedingly "tight in the city," and, as a consequence, the private bills were few. The swiftness with which the condition of the money-market makes itself felt in this department is very curious. About August, the schemes which were afloat promised an amount of private business altogether unprecedented in modern times; but then came "a frost, a nipping frost." Rumours of war and continental disturbance got abroad; and a considerable number of these schemes dropped, like leaves before a blast of winter wind. Still the number is very great, and the parliamentary season bids fair to be an unusually profitable one to the parliamentary agents and lawyers. The state of the money market is by no class of men watched with more anxiety than by the denizens of Parliament Street, Great George Street, and thereabouts. When money is plentiful in the City, great is the joy in this neighbourhood, for business flows in then in full volume; but if money be tight, a serious gloom prevails; for these streams, like other autumnal streams, are of a very fattening nature, and leave rich deposits behind them. We should suppose that one good year's profits of a great parliamentary agent's house, if well invested, would produce a very decent income for a moderate man. In the midst of this crowd of parliamentary agents, there is one of no mean name in the literary world. It is that short gentleman, with the high, prominent forehead and black beard. This is Mr. Theodore Martin, one of the judges of the Burns Centenary poems, and, what is better, author (conjointly with Professor Aytoun) of the "Bon Gaultier Ballads," and the translator of certain poems of Goethe, just published. Mr. Theodore Martin lives in Palace Yard. He married, as will be remembered, Miss Helen Faucit. He is the only literary man in the profession that we know. There would seem to be an impassable gulf between the arid region of parliamentary law practice and the bright and flowery domain of poetry; but Mr. Martin has managed successfully to bridge it over, and passes daily, with ease, from one to the other. And he is as well-known here as a punctual and able man of business, as he is in the literary world as an accomplished poet. But these people are not all parliamentary agents. That cluster there, which you see talking anxiously with the Liverpool Members, are all Liverpool merchants. Some rash person has brought in a bill to rate the docks in the north-western capital of commerce and ships, and these have come up to frustrate, if possible, the attempt. But see Mr. Charles Foster, M.P. for Walsal, comes out of the House, and announces to the clustering crowd of agents that their bills are read a second time, and now *en route* agents. In five minutes not one will be left; for, at this season, their time is worth something like a sovereign a minute, and must not be loitered away here.

LORD STANLEY.

But the lobby, you see, is filling again. Another crowd is closing up the gap. The business men are gone, and now come the politicians, and the usual loiterers in the lobby. Here comes a knot of members of the Indian Council, headed by Mr. Ross Donnelly Mangles, who want to get under the gallery to hear their President expose his Budget. Lord Stanley has been long talked of as "the coming man," but the phrase will apply no longer; for he is come, though perhaps he has not arrived at the goal, to which destiny beckons him, yet. The Noble Lord spoke on Monday night for two hours and a half, and made a successful *début* as President of the Council of India. Lord Stanley will never be the orator that his father is, for nature has denied him the physical requisites; but his capabilities, in his own line, are greater than Lord Derby's, and we have read his horoscope all wrong if he does not leave behind him a deeper impress upon his country's history than his Noble Father can expect to do. The Noble Lord is only thirty-three years old; but we may say of him, as was said of Portia, "we never knew so young a body with so old a head."

There have been not a few editorial mutterings and grumbings because the House of Commons did not sit late last week; but this early rising at the beginning of the session is nothing new. The House seldom sits late until after the first fortnight, and for the simple reason that it has nothing to do. Bills are laid on the table, and notices of motions are given, and thus preparations are made to commence work.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ASSASSINATIONS IN IRELAND.

The Earl of Leitcham moved for a series of returns of assassinations and attempted assassinations in Ireland since 1836. The Earl of Derby opposed the motion, as involving unnecessary expense and trouble; and was supported in his objection by Lord Montagu, Viscount Dungannon, and the Earl of Desart. The motion was withdrawn.

THE MILITIA.

Earl Grey asked when the report of the Commission on the militia would be ready, and spoke at some length upon the state of the militia, which he alleged to be very inefficient, and by no means worth the large sums voted for its maintenance.

The Earl of Derby said he was convinced that in the hour of danger the militia would be found of real service, and was of opinion that as the larger part of the regular army was at present engaged in India, it was necessary to maintain a militia to meet any sudden emergency which might arise. It would be unfair, if having appointed a commission, they should proceed to legislate on the subject without its report.

After some remarks from Earl Granville and the Duke of Richmond, the subject dropped.

JURORS.

Lord Wensleydale moved for a return, showing the number of times jurors have been locked up for the night.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Williams asked the late Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain a discrepancy of £1,200,000 in the published accounts of the year 1856, showing that amount of income above expenditure, for which no credit was given.

Sir G. C. Lewis said it arose from all the charges not being included in the return when made. Differences of this kind were usual and quite unavoidable.

Sir H. Willoughby said in the year mentioned there was a discrepancy of £5,000,000 between the quarterly and the annual accounts.

THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES.

Lord John Manners, in reply to Mr. Tite, explained and defended the appointment of Mr. Scott, to be the architect of the new public offices, and the style adopted.

Sir B. Hall strongly objected to the Gothic style, which Mr. B. Hope as strongly defended.

Mr. Coningham also protested against Gothic architecture as barbarous and un-English.

General Thompson asked why it was necessary to incur so great an outlay in the present state of our finances and of the politics of Europe.

Lord Palmerston ridiculed the grounds of Mr. Scott's appointment, and stigmatised the style proposed as Lombard-Gothic.

Mr. Bentinck agreed with General Thompson.

REWARDS TO INDIAN PRINCES.

Mr. V. Smith inquired whether any reward or mark of honour had been conferred upon those native princes or their ministers who had proved faithful to her Majesty during the late Indian mutiny?

Lord Stanley replied in the affirmative, and read a list of those upon whom such distinctions had been conferred.

THE TRANSFER OF LAND.

Mr. Cairns, the Solicitor-General, in an able speech, introduced the Government measure for facilitating the transfer of land and simplifying the law of titles. Guided by the example of the Irish Encumbered Estate

Court, he proposes to establish a court for the investigation of titles—a period of fifteen months being allowed for their examination and dispute. The court is to be called the Landed Estate Court, and the judges to have been conveyancers in practice for ten years, or to have sat in the Irish Encumbered Estate Court; the salary of the first judge to be £3,000, and of the second, £2,500. It is expected that the court, after the first year, will be self-supporting. It is also intended to provide a metropolitan registry for titles thus made indefeasible.

Sir R. Bithell, Mr. Ayres, and Mr. Lowe gave a general approval to the measure.

Mr. Malins and Mr. Hadfield expressed some doubts as to its operation. Mr. Walpole brought in a bill to amend the laws relating to the Ecclesiastical Commission.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE SLAVE TRADE AND THE RIGHT OF SEARCH.

Lord Wensleydale moved some inquiries respecting the recent diplomatic correspondence with the United States Government, which had resulted in a formal abandonment of the right of search.

The Earl of Malmesbury promised to produce the correspondence on the subject between this Government and the United States; and defended the course he had taken. The right of search arose at a time when our navy was irresistible, and was the only navy that could suppress the slave-trade. But the right of search was not founded on right, and was unsupported by international law. As soon as France had rebuilt her navy she refused our right of search, and America followed her example. We had held out too long. But, if we had been inclined to run into one extreme, the Americans had run into the other, for they had denied that any such right of verifying the flag existed. That opinion had been subsequently modified, for General Cass had explained that a search might now and then be justified, but it must always be at the risk of the searchers, and that when exercised fairly no Government could complain. Assurances had been received from the United States of a sincere desire to suppress the slave-trade, and a proposal for adopting a more efficient system had been forwarded from America. After alluding to the frank manner in which the French Government had given up the free immigration system, he said that the best hopes for suppressing the slave trade consisted in the maintenance of peace, and that the strongest assurances of its permanence had been received from France.

The Earl of Clarendon contended that preceding Governments had asserted no right of visitation which could be given up, without leaving open to any slaver to hoist the American flag.

The Earl of Aberdeen held similar language. He had himself, as Foreign Secretary, twenty years ago, conceded everything which could be reasonably demanded.

The Earl of Carlisle expressed his hope that the new instructions to our cruisers, promised by Government, would be issued as soon as possible.

The Earl of Derby said the object in view was simply to come to an understanding with the United States as to the means of ascertaining the nationality of a suspected vessel.

Lord Brougham said the principle in question applied to common piracy as well as to the slave trade; and if a cruiser had no right to stop a ship under the French or American flag, there would be no end to the absurdities and extravagance involved.

The discussion then ceased.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN FINANCE.

After Mr. Hardy's Highways Bill had been read a second time,

Lord Stanley moved for leave to bring in a bill enabling the Secretary of State for India to raise money in the United Kingdom for the service of the Indian government, and explained in detail the present financial condition and prospects of that country. During the ten years just preceding the mutiny, there had been a deficiency exhibited in the balance-sheets of the first three and the last three years, a surplus having accrued during the intervening period of four years. In 1855-6 the income and expenditure were nearly balanced. Upon the accounts of the following year, 1856-7, however, there appeared a deficit of £179,000, the revenue having been £33,303,000, and the expenditure £33,482,000. The returns for the two succeeding years had not been yet prepared or received, but it was estimated that the income of 1857-8 would be £31,544,000, and the outlay £39,120,000, leaving a deficiency of about £7,600,000, which would be increased to nine millions in round numbers, by some further items on account of transport and stores. For 1858-9 the estimated revenue was £33,015,000, against an outlay amounting to £45,629,000, showing a further deficiency of £12,600,000, making an aggregate deficiency of £21,700,000 incurred since the outbreak of the sepoy revolt. During this period an extra military expenditure had been incurred of more than eighteen millions, to which must be added losses and other charges on account of the war to the amount of £5,639,000. In January, 1857, the Indian army had comprised 45,547 European troops and 232,204 natives, while the present force was 91,580 Europeans and 243,951 natives, showing that the British force had been more than doubled, and the native regiments fully maintained at their former strength. The Noble Lord then described the gradual growth of the Indian debt, which had expanded from about eighteen millions, in 1800, to seventy-four and a half millions in the present year; but, as he observed, had scarcely ever exceeded two years' revenue of the country. Of this debt it appeared that fifty-nine and a half millions had been subscribed in India, whereof fully three-fifths belonged to native holders. He then adverted to the natural resources of India, as hitherto developed, observing, as regards the future, that, wherever there existed a fertile soil and an industrious population, there were the raw materials for almost unlimited prosperity. On this subject he successively noticed the rapid extension of trade, both the exports and imports having more than doubled since 1840, the increase in cotton cultivation, the steady progress effected in constructing railways, for which purpose the Indian Government had guaranteed a capital amounting in the gross to thirty-nine millions, whereof nineteen millions were already paid up, and various other harbour works, irrigation works, telegraphic, and miscellaneous undertakings. For the establishment of telegraphic communication between England and India the Government had guaranteed 4½ per cent. interest on a capital of £800,000. The cable was nearly ready, and assurances were given that it would be completed to Aden by June next. A second line was also about to be constructed, under the auspices of the Turkish Government, via Constantinople, Bassorah, and Kurrachee. Many of the public works already completed had proved enormously remunerative. Passing on to the subject of land tenure, Lord Stanley contended that it would be most undesirable to attempt any violent changes in either of the three systems at present existing in different parts of Hindostan, and to which the native inhabitants had grown accustomed. There were, however, large unoccupied domains in the hands of the government which might be utilised for the encouragement of colonists from England; and he also suggested that every holder of land might be enabled and stimulated to convert his tenure into freehold by paying a moderate price for its redemption from all Government claim, the money so received being carefully devoted to the extinction of the debt. Reverting to financial topics, the Noble Lord remarked that a large deficiency was unavoidable during the current year, and must somehow be supplied. Under ordinary circumstances, the home Government drew bills on India for the home service, but this at present was impossible, and it might even be found necessary to remit money from England to Calcutta. In summing up the various charges that had to be provided for, he arrived at the conclusion that seven millions in addition to the normal income of India would prove sufficient, and for a loan of that amount he proposed to ask the sanction of Parliament. The money would be borrowed either upon bonds or debentures, secured exclusively upon the Indian revenues.

The motion for leave to bring in a bill having been altered, upon a point of form, into a resolution that the House should on Friday next go into committee for the purpose of sanctioning the introduction of the proposed measure, was in that shape agreed to after a brief conversation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

Lord Stanley of Alderley asked whether her Majesty's Government intended to introduce any measure to relieve the shipping interest from passing tolls and burdens? At the same time he expressed a hope that no steps would be taken to reverse the repeal of the navigation laws.

Lord Donoughmore stated that it was not the intention of the Government to bring forward any measure on the subject.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Lord Brougham, in presenting a petition from certain inhabitants of the island of Jamaica respecting the Cuba slave-trade, spoke in terms of high praise of the Brazilian and Portuguese Governments for their efforts in suppressing that traffic. He contrasted the conduct of these two countries with that of Spain, and strongly condemned the latter for her systematic violation of treaties and evasion of her just duties.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. HIGGINS.

Mr. Clive renewed his question respecting the appointment of Mr. Higgins, the Lord Chancellor's son-in-law, as a Master in Lunacy.

Mr. Disraeli replied that he had a note from the Lord Chancellor, saying he had considered his son-in-law fully competent to fulfil the duties of the

but that he had resigned the appointment on account of the remark which followed. Mr. Postlethwaite commended Mr. Higgins for taking this course.

THE TREATMENT OF LUNATICS.

Mr. TITE moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the laws relating to the care and treatment of lunatics, an inquiry, we may safely say, rendered most desirable by what has recently occurred, and which will be fresh in the recollection of every one.

Mr. Secretary WALPOLE assented to the inquiry, though he altered the terms of the motion a little.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL moved for leave to introduce a bill relative to bankruptcy and insolvency, a motion which was the chief order of the day for last night. His Lordship made an explanatory speech. He first of all explained his reasons for undertaking such an important duty, and referred to what had taken place on this subject in the section of the Birmingham Social Science Conference, over which he had presided. He next pointed out the evils of the present system, and showed how these evils had gradually arisen from defective or over-legislation. Coming to his own proposals, he showed that the present appointment of an official assignee was a great and unnecessary expense, and so he would, in the first instance, give the creditors power, for the sake of convenience, to place the whole of the assets belonging to the bankrupt in the hands of an assignee chosen by themselves. It was also thought that such expensive personages as the broker and messenger could be dispensed with altogether—the assignee to employ persons to have the custody of property, which is all that is required. Certain other costs of a judicial character should be put upon the Consolidated Fund, as was the case with respect to courts of justice. The distinction between bankrupt and insolvent should be entirely destroyed. All persons in debt should come under the same law. There would, therefore, only be need of one court, and great would be the saving of expense by such an arrangement. The next evil was the distance of the present courts from the places of residence of traders, but there could be no objection to creditors having the power to carry their case before the County Court of their district, though the jurisdiction of the present bankruptcy courts would remain. He would also give power to make voluntary settlements which would have a judicial sanction, as in Scotland. More effectually to punish fraudulent debtors, he would grant the means of indictment before a jury. These were the leading arrangements of the bill. It differed in some of its details from the measure he had introduced at an advanced period of last session, but upon the whole its principal provisions were the same.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, on the part of the Government, did not oppose the introduction of the bill. He doubted the policy of doing away with the official assignees, who were responsible officers appointed by the Court. He approved the abolition of the distinction between traders and non-traders; but he questioned the expediency of conferring upon the County Courts a co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Bankruptcy Court. He suggested other matters of detail for the consideration of Lord J. Russell; and, with reference to the consolidation of the law of bankruptcy, he stated that the Government had under consideration a general scheme of consolidation of the law.

After some remarks by Mr. HEADLAM and Mr. MOFFAT, leave was given to introduce the bill.

COUNT OUT.

Mr. ALCOCK was in the act of moving for a Royal Commission to report about the abolition of tolls, when the House was counted out.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

LORD BURY, in a few words, moved the second reading of the Marriage Law Amendment Bill.

Mr. A. B. HOPK contended that the feeling of the country was against the bill, and that it would bring suspicion and discord into many a family. The religious part of the question he would say nothing about. What had been urged last session on this head still remained unanswered.

M. BALL, Sir F. BUXTON, Mr. AKROYD, General THOMPSON, and Sir GEORGE GREY supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. STUART, and Mr. WALPOLE.

LORD J. RUSSELL said he had until the present hour refrained from giving any vote on the question, because he had not fully considered the question, but having now done so, he had satisfied himself that there was no religious prohibition to the marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and he was further of opinion that there was a clear distinction between relations in blood and relations who become so by the marriage tie. He should support the second reading of the bill.

After some remarks by Mr. WALTER in opposition to the bill, the House divided, when there appeared for the second reading, 135; against it, 75.

RAILWAY PROPERTY.

Mr. HENLEY moved for returns which covered the whole operations of railways—their capital, actual share capital paid up, their loans, the amounts expended in construction and working, length of line opened for traffic, or authorised to be completed, amalgamations, &c., &c.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

EARL GREY inquired whether the propositions which Mr. Gladstone was said to have made to the Ionian Legislature for a new constitution in the Septinsular Republic had been approved by the Government, and whether there was any objection to lay the document before their Lordships.

The EARL OF CARNARVON stated that the propositions alluded to were still under consideration by the local Legislature; and it would, he submitted, be inexpedient to publish them until the determination of that assembly was known.

EARL GREY intimated his intention of returning to the question, and challenging a full discussion upon it.

The EARL OF DERRY said that so long as the propositions remained under consideration in the Ionian Assembly, he should believe it contrary to his public duty either to lay the papers before Parliament or assent to any formal debate upon the questions they involved.

The Law of Property and Trustees' Relief Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A new writ was ordered for the borough of Marylebone, in the room of Lord Ebrington, who had accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

In answer to a question from Mr. BLAND, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER hoped that he might be permitted to postpone his answer to any question relating to parliamentary reform until after the 28th inst.

THE BALLOT IN AUSTRALIA.

SIR E. B. LYTON, in reply to Mr. DILLWYN, stated that a bill establishing the ballot at elections in New South Wales had been transmitted from the colony, after passing the local Assembly, but was still under consideration by the Government.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. L. KING obtained leave to bring in a bill for the better settling the real estates of intestates. The bill did not interfere with wills, but simply provided that in cases of intestacy landed estates would be apportioned among the natural heirs in the same manner as was already practised with regard to personalty.

Mr. AYRTON obtained leave to introduce a bill to repeal certain acts and clauses of acts relating to newspapers, pamphlets, and other publications, and the printers, &c., engaged upon such works.

On the motion of Mr. J. FITZGERALD, leave was given to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juries in Ireland.

Leave was given to Mr. BLACK to introduce a bill for abolishing the tax called ministers' money now levied within the city of Edinburgh, the parish of Canonroose, and the burgh of Montrose.

SIR F. COLERIDGE had leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the registration of county voters in Scotland.

The Marriage Law Amendment Bill went through committee.

THE BAVARIAN MINISTER OF WAR has given orders to place the different troops composing the Bavarian army on a war footing.

THE PRINCE OF ARBYNSIA is daily expected in Paris; apartments are engaged in the Hotel de Louvre for his Royal Highness and a suite of forty persons. He is likely to be the lion of the season.

AT A COURT BALL given by the Princess of Prussia on the evening of the 10th, Madame de Kuster, wife of the former Minister of Prussia to Naples and to Munich, was struck with apoplexy and died in the ball-room.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA intends, it is said, to have a resident ambassador at the Court of France; and Mirza Malcolm, who accompanied Ferukh Khan in his visit to France, and who had before resided for several years in Paris, is mentioned for the post.

A HORSE belonging to a farmer, of Kensing, Sussex, died last week, in consequence of eating a bushel of wheat. It is thought that a peck of wheat is sufficient to kill a horse.

MADAME DEJAZET, FEMME DE CHAMBRE has just died, bequeathing to her mistress a funded sum of 200,000fr., which she confesses was from time to time pilfered with the ultimate object of securing to her improvident employer an income of 10,000fr. in her old age.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.

THE third annual exhibition of this interesting association, albeit not containing many pretentious work, offers many encouraging features. A glance at the catalogue shows us the names of nearly one hundred and fifty lady exhibitors, a very large proportion of whom exhibit, in a comparative degree, remarkable proficiency. We are compelled to say comparative; for till within the last two or three years, the art-education of women has been so wretchedly neglected in England; their progress in study has been so hampered and trammelled by absurd conventionalities, and an absurder fastidiousness, that it would be unreasonable to look among lady artists for many possessing the vigour and decision of those of the French school. We have no Rosa Bonheurs, no Madame Maillibords; we have not even an Angelica Kaufmann in England. Prudishness has till very lately forbidden our female artists to attain anything beyond the most superficial knowledge of the human figure; and we are not quite sure but that some estimable matrons may exist—of the same class as those who forbid their daughters to read "Jane Eyre," who deem the adoption of art as a profession by ladies as in the highest degree "improper." There is, however, we believe, no absolute necessity for the lady artist to smoke a short pipe, decorate her studio with skulls and fencing foils, and range the *corps de ballet* for symmetrical models. The pursuit of Art can be made purely feminine and domestic, and need not be by any means "strong-minded" (although one of our fair exhibitors gives the University Club, Pall Mall, as her address). Still a vast augmentation of the scope to which the artistic studies of females have hitherto been restricted is necessary ere they can hope to vie with their sisters on the continent. Until they know a great deal more about bones and muscles, they will continue to draw dolls instead of human beings; and till they know something about the simple human form, the draperies with which they cover it will be of wood and not of textile fabrics. We hail, however, the formation of an association, such as the one we are now criticising, with peculiar gratification, and in the present exhibition the ladies seem to be making continuous steps towards their emancipation from the intolerable old routine of the boarding-school drawing-masters' "copies," the grinning ivories of the miniature-painters "in this style, one guinea," the follies and fripperies of tea-board landscapes, and impossible bouquets executed in "Poonah painting."

But the lady painters have among them one professor, a mistress in her heart, who is a striking example of the vigour and truth that can be attained by the female hand, with experience and with study. The water colour drawings of Mrs. Elizabeth Murray are really superb, facile in drawing, admirable in composition, rich in colour, and surprisingly bold in general treatment. Backgrounds and minor accessories are disposed of by Mrs. Murray in a very rough and ready, yet masterly manner; still, in the heads of her subjects, she shows a capacity for the most delicate manipulation, and the most exquisite finish. (24) "An Italian Goatherd," (59) "Pifferari praying to the Virgin," (93) "A Roman Pilgrim," (a magnificent man's head that might have been painted by Leopold Robert), are excellent specimens of her manner. (249) "The Outcast," is an admirable study of a Roman vagabond, with such a head of matted blue-black hair, the cause of whose casting out is sufficiently demonstrated in the back ground by a placard, or "Mancia," headed by the papal tiara and cross-keys, and offering a reward of 100 scudi for his apprehension. This agreeable document is signed "Elizabeth Murray," whom we were not aware till now was at the head of the Papal detective police.

There were two Dromos, there are two Sicilies, two gates to dreams, and two poetic Tennysons, and there are two Miss Claxtons. Both are very accomplished draughtswomen (will our readers pardon us for coining the word?) and both possess rare qualities in their sex—a considerable faculty of humorous perception. Miss Adelaide Claxton's humour is the highest spiced and verges on the comic; Miss Florence Claxton, on the contrary, has more observation and more keenness. Her humour is inclined to be satirical, and is occasionally blended with pathos. (239) "Scenes from the Life of an Old Bachelor," is a pictorial epic, in the Hogarthian manner. The various peripatetic in the life of a bachelor are very amusingly depicted in a series of admirably-executed sepia drawings. We are shown the Narcissus-like young bachelor, admiring his sweet visage in a looking-glass. We behold him falling in love with a fair equestrian; going abroad, and carousing at Indian mess-tables; returning home just in time to see the object of his affections (whom he has deceived in the most heartless manner, by the way,) wedded to another, the sternest of "swells," with the longest of monstaches; becoming cynical in middle age, and spouting political platitudes on election hustings, and ultimately an irrevocable old bachelor, subsiding to a place at a whist table, where, we trust, he loses his money, and is bullied dreadfully by dowagers for revoking. (274) "Scenes from the Life of an Old Maid," give us the career of a young lady, first playing with a remarkably ugly doll; next, receiving a Valentine; next, loving and beloved; next, disappointed in love, through the inhumanity of a "cruel parent," and at last a confirmed old maid, wistfully contemplating the doll of her childhood, which she takes from a drawer. These two series are sketchy, but very cleverly sketched. Freedom and grace are manifest in the drawing, and the figures are full of expression. We may add, that Miss Florence Claxton (what a pretty name!) has an apparent horror of crinoline, and in her female figures sets her face against an amplitude of skirt. Miss Adelaide Claxton exhibits two pictures in oil (159), "The Standard Bearer," a ragged urchin perched on the hind-step of an omnibus, and endeavouring to persuade the passengers who look most conservative to purchase a copy of our mouldy contemporary the "Standard"; and (199) "Despair"—a pretty little tot of a child, very well painted, sprawling on a sofa, overwhelmed with grief at the loss of her kitten, whose lifeless form lies at her feet; while on the walls is seen an engraving of the "Death of Dido." Are we to conclude by this that the kitten committed suicide? Miss Adelaide Claxton does not draw with the delicacy and correctness possessed by her sister; but her ideas of form and colour are nevertheless full of promise. Goodness knows that humorous artists are rare enough; and we are very glad to welcome the Misses Claxton to an arena in which there are so few worthy competitors.

Miss Lucy Meadows, daughter of a famous sire, the illustrator of Shakespeare, contributes (91), a portrait of "David," son of James Hannay, Esq., a very charming study of a very pretty little boy. The daughter of one celebrity paints the son of another celebrity. Art and literature shake hands. Is not this much better, brethren, than hating one another? Mrs. Vincent Bartholomew sends (37) a delicate study of "Fresh Gathered Watercresses," and (112) a pleasing composition called "The Flower Girl." Miss Margaret Gillies has a solitary picture, on a religious subject, (65) "Vivia Perpetua," which is somewhat too mystical to please us. The hands of the figure, moreover, have the appearance of being laid on a chopping-block for the express purpose of amputation. (6) "Gwindy, Llanfair Tychan, North Wales" (shade of Captain Fluelen, what a mouthful of Celtic!), is a conscientious study of rough stone peasants' cabins, by Miss Eliza Mills. (21), "Christchurch Gateway, Canterbury," by Miss Louise Rayner, is a wonderful piece of architectural elaboration; but it is painted throughout in body colour, and looks too much like miniature scene painting. (10) "Brathay Church, near Ambleside"—Miss Heathcote—is pretty and picturesque, but the church spire is lamentably out of drawing. Many of our old church spires are out of the perpendicular, but this one at Brathay out-topples Pisa. (14) "I've got a Fedder," is not a very favourable specimen of Mrs. Backhouse's abilities. A little girl with a large head is trying on a monstrous ragged bonnet, and grins unpleasantly. And yet the picture is capitally painted.

Mrs. Washington, in (54), "Fruit Sketches in Jersey," is unfortunate in her notions of the line of beauty and in her hard style of treatment. The bunch of grapes she has painted looks like a purple leg of mutton. (88), by Miss Emma Walter, is a much better fruit piece. (101), "Children minding their Mother's Stall," also by Mrs. Backhouse, is not remarkable for the children; but the fish, especially the lobsters, are excellent. We never, ourselves, saw any "Bantam Chickens" such as Mrs. Withers in (121) presents us with; but if they resemble, which we have no doubt they do, the chickens here depicted, Bantam chickens

are decidedly the most comic birds ever known to the poultry fancier or dreamed of by the ornithologist. (130) "A Capuchin Monk," by Mrs. Christie, is somewhat hard and dingy in its shadows, but there is good drawing in it; and (171) "An Irish Lassie," by Mrs. Popham, is gay and picturesque.

(181) "The Colossus at Sunset—Thebes—during the Inundation," by Mrs. Robinson Blaine, is a somewhat ambitious picture by an evidently practised artist. It is very solemn and still in aspect, although the sunrise is gorgeously rendered.

There are some excellent copies of old pictures in the exhibition, among which the most noticeable are (203) Miss Tekusch's "Dutch Girls at a window," after Rembrandt; (201) Mrs. Needham's "Child Harold's Pilgrimage," after Turner, an admirable copy; and (210) "The Sleeping Saviour," after Murillo, by Miss Emily Macirone. The screens on which the Misses Claxton's drawings are displayed also show (218) a careful study of Fruit by Miss Lance; (238), a very curious little night view of Perth, with the comet of '58 flaming over it; and (246) an exquisite "Madonna," after Carlo Dolce, by Miss H. Hally. Miss Macirone has also (252) a glowing and genial copy of an "Interior," after Prout. (247) "Portrait of Mrs. H. G. Dennis," by Mrs. Mosley, is a marvellously well executed miniature in the old-fashioned style. In conclusion, we must award a word of praise to Mrs. J. Uwins for her surprisingly skilful copy (268) of the title-page to the Gospel of St. Luke, from Bishop Butler's Arabic MSS. in the British Museum.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT THE VATICAN.

SHORTLY after the arrival of the Prince of Wales in Rome, the Pope sent his major-domo to pay his compliments to his Royal Highness. Next day the Prince made a formal visit to the Vatican. The desire of her Majesty had previously been made known that the formality should be conducted in as quiet a manner as possible. His Holiness rose on the entry of the Prince, and coming forward to the door of the apartment to meet him, conducted him to a seat, and entered into conversation with him in French. Colonel Bruce was the only other person present. The interview was brief, and limited to complimentary expressions and subjects of local interest. On the Prince rising to take his leave, the Pope conducted him again to the door with the same warmth of manner which he had manifested on receiving him.

We are told that the Prince will visit the members of the various Sovereign families of Europe now domiciled in the Eternal City, before applying himself steadily to study. A few days ago his Royal Highness went to call upon the King of Prussia, or rather upon the Queen, the state of his Majesty's health making it painful for any one to see him. The Prince has declined a formal visit from the French General, Count de Guyon, who proposed paying his respects to his Royal Highness at the head of his *etat-major*. In Rome the opinion seems to prevail that the young Prince is travelling for the purpose of curing himself of some love fever, rather than with the object of studying antiquities and the fine arts. He will remain, it is said, until the end of June.

PRINCE NAPOLEON AND THE PRINCESS CLOTILDE.

THE alliance between that other "nephew of his uncle," Prince Napoleon, with the daughter of the Sardinian King, has excited unusual interest, for more than one reason. First, there is the political view of the matter, which is astonishing to many people, and significant enough to arrest the attention of everybody. Then there is the family view; for, in spite of all that may be urged to the contrary, we cannot divest ourselves of this idea: that Victor Emmanuel, head of one of the noblest and most ancient houses in Europe, must have had some qualms in handing over his daughter to a member of a parvenu family, whose dynasty cannot be regarded by any cool mind as guaranteed. Then the indecent haste of the marriage; as if every attempt by these Bonapartes, from seizing a throne to securing little Princesses, must be projected under a mask, and accomplished at a blow! Lastly, the discontent of the Princess, who, poor child, must have been sadly surprised out of her dreaming by such an off-hand manner of wooing, which, so far as she was concerned, must really have had a burglarious air about it. We are told that when Prince Napoleon's proposal was first made for her hand, the Princess shed tears, and in other feeble ways protested against the match. Not so feeble, though; if it be true that those most attached to her had to be relieved from attendance on her person, and their places supplied by individuals with more strength of character and a better sense of the necessities of the case. Each for ourselves, we can imagine these patriotic persons smoothing the bridal path, though it led to the Palais Royal; and transfiguring the bridegroom, stout and forty. So they are married; and the Princess is brought to Paris, not at all with acclamation, and sits down in her new family, and is content. More than content, perhaps; for, according to court gossip, the Princess achieved a complete triumph over the Empress at a ball or banquet a few nights ago by the superior taste of her toilet; and when the Princess looks upon the Emperor, and reflects that she is destined to become a mother in a family which produces such men as *that*, all girlish nonsense must vanish.

With the portraits of the newly-married pair, we must give a sketch of their history:—

Prince Napoleon Bonaparte, son of Jerome Bonaparte, ex-king of Westphalia, was born at Trieste in 1822. He resided in Rome up to the age of nine, when he was sent to a college in Geneva, which he left in 1837 to enter the military school of Louisbourg (Wurtemberg). The youth of Prince Napoleon was passed in travel and study in Germany, England, Spain, and even in France, where he was permitted to make a short stay. He afterwards returned to England, where he associated himself with his father in efforts to annul the law which exiled his family. Permission being again accorded them to visit France, they were both in Paris at the period of the revolution of 1848. Prince Napoleon was returned by Corsica as its deputy in the National Constituent Assembly; he was also a member of the Legislative body. We need not add that the Prince took part in the Crimean war, though rumour says he reaped but little glory in that memorable campaign. He commanded the third division of the French army. In 1856, the Prince made a voyage, undertaken for scientific purposes (we have not yet beheld the fruits of the expedition), to the Arctic seas. More recently he has been appointed Minister of Algeria and the Colonies. Of the entire Imperial family, Prince Napoleon bears the most striking resemblance to his uncle.

The information we are enabled to give in reference to the Princess, is necessarily meagre. Without going back to the nursery and the period of dolls, we have little to relate. But this we can say, that the Princess Clotilde-Marie-Therese-Louise was born on the 2nd of March, 1843, and is consequently just sixteen years of age. A correspondent who witnessed her entry into Paris, thus describes her:—"She is a pretty girl, fair, with light hair, a *nez retroussé*, and a striking family likeness to her father. She looks what she is, a tenderly nurtured child fresh from the nursery. Her appearance, so far from partaking of that southern precocity which is hinted as a justification for her marriage at the age of fifteen years and ten months, is even more juvenile than the register of her birth would indicate." It is young, to be transplanted into a new, unsettled court.

Beside the portraits of the Princess and her husband, we give another engraving illustrative of this latest Royal marriage. The picture illustrates the scene presented when General Niel formally demanded the Princess's hand from the King of Sardinia.

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT has officially contradicted the rumour that it was in treaty with President Buchanan for the sale to the United States of its island of St. Thomas. As that small and unhealthy isle is the central point from which our West India royal mail packets radiate into the Gulf of Mexico, the matter is of some interest to us.



H.H. PRINCE NAPOLEON.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY LEGRAY.)



H.R.H. THE PRINCESS CLOTILDE OF SAVOY.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE POSSESSION OF KING VICTOR EMMANUEL.)

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NOTICE.—Numerous letters have reached the proprietors of this paper, from subscribers in various parts of the country, complaining of the imposition practised by certain News-vendors, in charging 3d. instead of 2d. for a number of the "Illustrated Times." In reply we have only to state, that the trade allowance on the "Illustrated Times" is in accordance with established usage, and that those agents who extort more than the regular publishing price, are guilty of a fraud on the public.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1859.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS' AGITATION.

WHAT gives a kind of general and even European interest to the disturbance being made by the "patriots" of the Seven Islands, is that it is an imitation, on a petty scale, of that which is threatening the world in the South of Europe. The reaction which followed '48 and '49 is now subsiding everywhere; and there is a pretty general feeling coming up that the *status quo* in matters of political geography ought to be once more disturbed, in the hope of a better arrangement. The feeling belongs to the revolutionary party properly so called, but it is used by sagacious and long-headed men, whose general sympathies are not revolutionary, but who hope that something will turn up for their advantage in the case of a breach of the peace. The little orator of Zante, who deserts his current fields for the sake of talking a little pompous nonsense about Marathon and Salamis, is really on a small scale what your high Italian declaimer is who wants to free Italy from foreigners, though he knows that without other foreigners this is impossible. In fact, there are symptoms that England may be called upon to decide whether to pursue her course of social development quietly, or to take part in a general re-distribution of the world. We have never concealed our belief that she will be very foolish if she swerves from her quiet old path—the path in which she has moved since 1815—and we are glad that, in the case of the Ionian Islands, she has clearly indicated as much. For there is nothing more certain, than that once to have admitted the right of the Ionians to separation from us, would have been a concession of the whole principle. It would have been tantamount to saying, that the reign of the latest great treaty was over, and that we were open as a Power to consider everybody's right to everything that he claimed in the way of political change. Now, by laying down, distinctly, the proposition that our Protectorate is part of the public law of Europe, to be maintained like any other right of this country's, we really separate ourselves from the entire movement for new territorial arrangements, and do our best to maintain the peace of the world. This is the fact, as we have said above, which gives to our last move in the Ionian matter, a dignity and importance which it would not otherwise possess; and a *significance*, too, which we hope will not be lost either on Italy or France.

It remains to be seen whether the Septinsular patriots are going to act like wise men. Many of them, no doubt, are clever ones: for the last thing a degenerate race loses is its shrewd quality—its sharpness and restlessness. Nations go on producing wags and rhetoricians long after they have ceased to produce patriots and sages, and we think the Ionians are misled by their ignorance of this fact into fancying themselves fitter for a greater game in the world than they can ever play. By bringing forward practical grievances, they will ensure themselves redress. By co-operating with our rule, they will secure themselves improvement, and that through incessant contact with one of the highest forms of civilisation. But by keeping up a disturbance, they will only run the risk of the necessity of violent measures being used (for it is vain to deny that we must maintain our rights by all means), and postpone, indefinitely, the growth of their country in the ordinary modern way of peace and commerce. It is as well that the alternative has been distinctly presented to them at last, and that they should know that Mr. Gladstone, if a Homeric scholar, is also an English statesman, with interests to support far more important than any private literary tastes of his. At first we feared that the islands would run a chance of being misled about this country's intentions. The Royal despatch has ended all that. The Protectorate is to be maintained; for our sakes, as for that of the Ionians themselves. Symptoms are not wanting of a disposition to weaken England in the Mediterranean. They must be resisted—they have been resisted—in the very bud. Yet is not this view a selfish one only. For we defy the agitators to show one practical point in which the interests of their people would be improved by a junction with one of the worst governed kingdoms of modern times—Greece; while the present régime is a paradise compared with that which the Ionians have enjoyed under the many successive masters who have ruled them since the original Greeks were destroyed or absorbed in the overthrow of the classic world.

THE PAPER DUTY.

We are heartily glad that the agitation against this vexatious impost has reached the degree of success indicated by the reply given by the Earl of Derby to the large and influential deputation which waited upon him last week. The Premier virtually

admitted that the tax was indefensible, and it now only requires a decided expression of public opinion to force the finance minister to give effect to the resolution which the House of Commons unanimously came to during the past session. New friends join the movement every day; and these we propose to teach to sum up the strong points of their case in neat and portable form—as the Catholics help their memories by the use of beads.

The Paper Duty's history is bad. It was first laid on—when the system of modern taxation began—in William's time for the support of foreign wars; and it was continued in Anne's time for the purpose of checking the press. It was thus bad at the fountain, and no wonder it is intolerable in the stream: for, if any two things are now admittedly bad, they are wars of intervention and restrictions on journalism.

The Paper Duty's commercial effects are mischievous. Not to mention that it checks revenue by checking the consumption of other taxed articles, it ties up the money which but for it would be employed in the paper trade, or at least in some other trade; and along with this, of course, its effect is to prevent all development of the paper manufacture—an object particularly desirable just now. The regulations and fines caused by the working of the Excise are themselves restrictive and disagreeable; but what is more important is, that the Excise hinders people from adding to the *kinds* of manufactures at present in use. Science may produce a new fibre fit for the purposes for which paper is now made: but, the moment it assumes the likeness of paper, the tax pounces on it and forbids it to succeed. This policy is like that of the Abyssinian savage, who, to gratify his hunger, cuts bits from a living cow; or it is as if we were to strip the blossoms from apple-trees, in a district where it was of much consequence to have new kinds of cider.

The Paper Duty interferes with the country's foreign trade, by restricting the exportation of paper, and again by restricting the commodities which paper is used to wrap; that is to say, it weights us in our race with rival countries for the supply of the world. And this in the era of Free Trade!

But the Paper Duty does something more and something worse than all this. There is a peculiar character about this product, won by the skill of man from materials so ugly and commonplace in appearance. It is the vehicle of the thought of the world, the instrument of the world's intellectual work. The Paper Duty, therefore, is a tax *through* paper on thought—on education, in fact, which in our day chiefly works with books and journals for its tools. Accordingly, whatever interferes with the tools interferes with the workmen; and, indeed, both are damaged by the operation. If a book or journal is made compulsorily dear by law, somebody must suffer by the operation, and the sufferers be proportionately hampered in their employments. Supposing that the repeal did not at first *cheapen* books and journals, it would certainly make them *better*. They would be printed on better paper for one thing, but the amount gained would be gained for their whole character. So much money left free for literature generally would make itself felt through literature in its entirety. It would diffuse itself amongst all who concur in its production, so that ultimately there would be a greater quantity of literature itself. Now it has been shown that under a system of fair play, the kind of writing which is decent and instructive is able to beat out of the field that which is neither; and, indeed, the world would scarcely be habitable, if, in the long run, this were not the case. How, then, can you fetter publishing without fettering the good cause of enlightenment and civilisation? How better serve England than by encouraging the reasoner on good white paper against the libeller on ignoble whitey-brown? Like all questions, the education one has a certain tendency to answer itself; which tendency the Paper Duty keeps down. In fact, education makes an *up-hill* struggle, and the law puts on a drag-chain!

This last phase of the affair is the worst of the whole. Yet the Paper Duty does other bad work, the consequences of which, if they could be traced out in detail, would be still more painful. With our crowded population, every kind of work that feeds men ought to be encouraged; but the Paper Duty has stopped many a mill and pinched many a family. Bad in its origin, in its effect on revenues, on home manufacture, on foreign trade, on education, and on the labour question—why should this tax be maintained? We cannot fancy its being seriously defended at any time, and least of all when a man of letters, the son of a man of letters, presides over the financial affairs of the state.

CONCERTS.

A SERIES of six concerts, each devoted to one of the great masters, has been announced at the St. James's Hall, and, in case of approval, the directors intend to renew them at intervals. We feel certain that the undertaking will meet with general approbation, particularly as the first concert of the series, which took place on Monday night, was very successful, and it is known that "nothing succeeds like success." These classical concerts are to consist exclusively of chamber music—that is to say, of stringed quartets, sonatas for piano (solo or accompanied), chamber songs, duets, and trios; and the first of the series was devoted entirely to the chamber compositions of Mendelssohn. One of the most remarkable pieces of the evening was the quintet in B flat, with which the entertainment commenced. This was the first of the important works published after the composer's death, and is perhaps the finest piece of chamber music he ever wrote. In the hands of "Gospodin" Wieniawski, Herr Rico, Mr. Doyle, Herr Schreurs, and Signor Piatti, it received full justice, and the audience testified their appreciation of the work and of its execution in the warmest manner. Two airs from the operetta of "Son and Stranger," written when Mendelssohn was only twenty years of age, were sung; the serenade, "When the evening bells are chiming," by Mr. Wilbye Cooper; and the song of the pedlar, "I am a roamer, bold and gay," by Mr. Santley. But though Mr. Santley is an accomplished and artistic vocalist, he certainly is not gay. Perhaps the same may be said of the song of the pedlar itself, beautiful as it is, and full of the delicacy which characterises everything that Mendelssohn composed.

The two two-part songs (sung by Miss Stabach and Miss Palmer) were the "Sabbath morn," so full of devotional feeling; and "I would that my love," which is probably the most popular among the English of all the composer's productions belonging to the same or any other class. The public were particularly pleased with the four-part song known as "The Nightingale," and, in spite of the directors' requests that there should be no encores, vociferously redemanded it.

The "Winter Song," one of the most despondent and thoroughly poetical complaints ever conceived, was excellently sung by Miss Palmer. Mr. Benedict and Mr. Wieniawski performed in the sonata for pianoforte and violin in F minor. Mr. Benedict was again heard in the air with variations for piano and violoncello, of which the principal part was executed by Signor Piatti.

On the whole, the first concert of the classical series was a great success. The hall was crowded in every part, and we have no doubt that the Mozart Concert (fixed for Monday next) will be equally well attended.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY are now at Buckingham Palace. The Court will leave the metropolis about the 22nd inst., for a short sojourn at Osborne, Isle of Wight. On Tuesday evening, the Queen, the Prince Consort, and the Princess Helena, were present at the performance of "Satanella," at Covent Garden Theatre.

HER MAJESTY will hold levees at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., and on Wednesday, the 2nd of March next. Her Majesty will hold a drawing-room and another levee before Easter.

THE PRINCE CONSORT has made a donation of 400 volumes to the Royal Library, at Wellington College. The books are all handsomely and serviceably bound, and comprise a large number of finely-illustrated editions, as the Abbotsford edition of the "Waverley Novels," Morris's works on "British Birds and Insects," with some fine works in foreign languages.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has issued a Royal order in which she thankfully acknowledges the assurances of fidelity which have reached her in the shape of enthusiastic addresses from Cuba, in consequence of the debate at Washington on the purchase of that island by the United States.

THE HEREDITARY PRINCESS OF TUSCANY died at Naples on Thursday week. The deceased princess was the daughter of the reigning King of Saxony, and was but twenty-three years of age. In November, 1846, she was married to the Hereditary Grand Duke of Tuscany, and on the latter last month she gave birth to a daughter.

MR. DICKENS is said to be at work writing a book, not to be published, but to be read by the author. A new serial story is also talked of.

THE "OVERLAND MAIL" states that it is intended to secure a larger amount of publicity for the acts of the Indian Government, both at home and abroad, than has hitherto been accorded to them.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WARRANT OFFICERS, SEAMEN, AND MARINES in receipt of pensions for long services and injuries is 12,847, and the grand total amount of their pensions is £232,537 a-year. 3,525 seamen receive pensions for length of service, and 3,161 for grievous wounds and hurts.

ANTWERP is much concerned at the progress of the silting up of the Scheldt. Quite lately a vessel loaded with guano ran aground at a spot where, in 1893, when the soundings were taken, there were twenty metres of water.

IN BANTRY BAY, where, sixty years since, a French fleet was dispersed, a squadron, consisting of the Royal Albert, 121 guns, Orion, 91, Renown, 91, Victor Emmanuel, 91, Brunswick, 80, Racoon, 22, and a steam gunboat, is now stationed, with orders to remain for a month, it is said.

THE POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA is thus estimated:—Americans, 365,317; French, 15,000; English, 2,000; Irish, 10,000; Germans, 10,000; Mexicans, 15,000; various, 15,000; Chinese, 38,000; negroes, 2,000; Indians, 65,000; total 538,000.

THE JAPANESE have a pretty fable respecting the night moth, a very beautiful insect. They say that all other night-flies fall in love with it; and, to get rid of their importunities, it maliciously bids them, as a trial of their devotion and constancy, to go and fetch it fire. The blind lovers, obedient to command, fly to the nearest lamp or candle, and never fail to get burnt to death.

A CERTAIN GREYHOUND PUPPY "WILD WAVE," the property of Mr. C. Woodward, of Derby, has been sold for 200 guineas, we hear.

PERU contemplates applying to this market for a loan of 50,000,000 dollars, or about £10,000,000.

IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS the Pacific Railroad project has been defeated as a practical measure, by the passage of an impracticable bill in the Senate.

SIR HENRY BARKLEY, Governor of Victoria, laid the foundation-stone of a new Independent Church, at Prahran, on the 22nd ult. The Rev. Mr. Binney was present, and delivered a lengthy and eloquent address.

TWO SLAVES were burnt in Alabama lately for murdering their masters.

A BOILER EXPLODED, last week, at the Dan Lane Factory, Atherton, and inflicted serious injuries upon four persons.

THE SUM of £100 has been subscribed in Scotland for the nieces of Burns; great disappointment is expressed at such a meagre result.

SEVENTY-ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT HOUSE OF COMMONS claim exemption from serving on election committees, as being above the age of sixty years.

DR. KELLART writes in a Ceylon paper:—"I have the pleasure of announcing to the scientific world that I found the ovaries of the pearl oyster filled with pearls of various size and shape. I have preserved the specimen for transmission to Professor Owen, to be by him placed on the shelves of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons."

MAJOR PEREL, late 34th Regiment, son of Major-General Peel, Secretary of State for War, has been appointed aide-de-camp to the new Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, Colonel Sir Henry Storks, K.C.B.

THE ORGAN OF THE ALHAMBRA, in Leicester Square, a large and costly instrument, is advertised for sale.

A SON OF THE LATE MR. E. SEGGIN, whose fine bass voice is not forgotten, is now in London, for the purpose of beginning his career as a singer. He has been engaged, we hear, by Miss L. Pyne and Mr. Harrison.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S INTENDED RETURN TO ENGLAND, according to the "Calcutta Englishman," is to lay his title and fortune at the feet of a fair lady, encouraged, probably, in undertaking his new campaign by the example of the Duke of Malakoff.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR has applied to be relieved from his present command, and it is reported that, when Lord Elgin comes down, and matters at Canton are settled, he will proceed to India, previous to returning to England.

THE NET REVENUE OF THE NORTH LONDON RAILWAY COMPANY for the past half-year, after deducting all expenses and debenture interest, amounts to £24,559, being £3,668 more than the corresponding half of 1857, and is sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving £850.

A FRIEND OF THE CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST has offered to subscribe £1,500 towards liquidating the debt of £5,000 on the hospital at the Victoria Park, provided that the remaining sum of £4,500 shall be collected at the forthcoming anniversary festival, which is to take place on the 16th of March next.

THEATRICAL CRITICS IN AMERICA appear to be extremely independent. An American paper states that the manager of the Boston Theatre, having refused admittance to a reporter whose criticisms had displeased him, the reporter simply knocked him down, walked in, and took his seat.

A PROVINCIAL MAYOR in one of the departments of France has come out with an epigram in the shape of a notification—"All beggars found in this district will be fined 15fr. for the use of the poor."

AN EASEL PICTURE, by Raphael, about four feet high by three wide, with the Virgin and Child, of his second period, badly injured, probably by a candle, in the neck of the principal figure, but otherwise in good condition, has just been sold at Florence for 180,000fr.

A WELL-KNOWN STOCKBROKER at Orleans has absconded, taking with him property, which, so far as already known, exceeds the value of 800,000fr.

THE MUSEUM OF THE LOUVRE has purchased another Murillo from the Spanish Gallery of the late Marshal Soult, at 300,000 francs. It is a "Birth of the Holy Virgin," to which connoisseurs give the preference over Murillo's "Ascension of the Virgin," which had been bought by the Government for 600,000 francs.

MR. J. THOMAS, the harpist (now in Paris), has been for some time engaged upon the composition of an opera upon an historical English subject.

THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL is to be brought forward on the 28th inst. It is to be a bill not only "to amend the laws relating to the representation of the people of England and Wales," but also "to facilitate the representation and voting of electors."

THE QUANTITY OF RAW SUGAR imported into Liverpool in the year 1858 was 1,729,617 cwt., an increase of 189,715 cwt. over the importation of 1857.

THE PURCHASE OF HORSES at the late fairs at Hamburg, and its neighbourhood, and the objections to their exportation from Bavaria and other states, have already been noticed as indications of coming war. To these, another is now added, in the sales of spirits at Stettin and at other Baltic ports for early shipment to France and Italy, and which are understood to be for the supply of the French and Sardinian armies.

IN SEVEN OUT OF THE ELEVEN DISTRICTS OF OUDE there were collected in the week ending the 11th of December, 6,799 fire-arms, 15 cannon, 21,627 swords, 1,052 spears, 4,110 bows, 641 daggers, 1,998 shields, 394 miscellaneous weapons, making up the total since the 1st of November, 23,250 muskets, 73,417 swords, 4,532 spears, 10,528 bows, 3,228 daggers, 6,900 shields, 94,499 weapons of other sorts: total 316,379.

THE FRENCH MINISTER OF WAR has given orders that further experiments shall be made with fulminating cotton, to be used in the place of gunpowder, according to an improved plan.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND are each about to appoint two Commissioners to investigate the subject of the fishery of Newfoundland, and the negotiations upon it are to be resumed.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

has been a great flutter in the clubs during the past week. It has been stirred to the depths; and, at Brooks's, hopes were that something might be made out of the great Higgins case, way to office for the old set, or at all events to damage the out. But these idle dreams have all been dispelled by the fact of the Ministry, and the adroit and clever species of Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Higgins is the son of Colonel Higgins, who was for some years currier to the Duke of Gloucester, and who married the Lord Chancellor's eldest daughter. He is a clerk, but I cannot learn that he ever practised at the bar. At all his practice was not lucrative, or he would not have given it up for a clerkship in the Colonial-office, which post he held for years. Whilst the Whigs were in office, there was of course no Mr. Higgins that he would get a prize in the service; but when the law became Lord Chancellor the case was altered, as he soon learned; for, in a few weeks after this event, he found himself transferred to the Colonial-office to the Bankruptcy Court, of which he was Registrar, at a salary of a thousand a year. This was a great jump, as it did not satisfy either Mr. Higgins or his father-in-law. A few months afterwards, when a Mastership in Lunacy became vacant, Mr. Higgins was promptly appointed to this vastly more important office, at a salary of two thousand a year. What the real duties of a Master in Lunacy are I cannot learn, but they ought to be important with such a salary. Nor have I any knowledge of Mr. Higgins's capabilities, but it is but fair to suppose that they can be very great, or he would not have forsaken the bar to take a clerkship in the Colonial-office. The Lord Chancellor says he believes Mr. Higgins is quite competent to perform the duties. Mr. Higgins, who brought the matter before the House, says that it is impossible that he can be so. These gentlemen, of course, look at Mr. Higgins through different glasses. The Lord Chancellor would magnify his son-in-law's abilities and acquirements; Mr. Higgins, as a political opponent, would as naturally diminish them. However, of one thing we may be certain, the appointment, when made to be overhauled by the Ministry, was not considered to be wholly defensible, or it would have been defended. All that was said about Mr. Higgins's voluntary resignation, &c., must be taken as *concessio salis*. He did voluntarily resign, no doubt; but it was in a case in which a commandant of a fortress voluntarily resigns when certain supports which he expected have failed him. It was, then, intimated to the Lord Chancellor in pretty strong terms that the Government would not undertake to defend the appointment, and before Mr. Higgins voluntarily resigned. This is a mortifying business to the Lord Chancellor; and all the more so, if it be true that the Registrarship in the Bankruptcy Court, which Mr. Higgins held, has been filled up. It is pretty generally understood that the Government was really not responsible for this appointment. It is believed that it was made by the Lord Chancellor without consultation had of anyone. The cleverness with which Disraeli has managed the awkward affair has been much talked about. That speech of his on Friday night was the most perfect thing of the kind I ever heard. Mr. Cobden is gone to America. He is not gone for amusement, or for other, as some have said, to study the political institutions there. The simple fact is this, Mr. Cobden has, I am sorry to learn, invested a considerable sum in American railways, and is gone to look after it. Last week I said that the Reform Bill would be brought forward in about a month—I wrote on the 7th, and it is now authoritatively announced that it is to be produced on the 28th. This is a week sooner than I said, and it is a week sooner than the Government contemplated. It is idle to speculate upon the nature of the bill, and useless to report the rumours about. But I may say that the report that the grouping system is to be adopted, is generally believed. The "permissive bill" I have doubts about, but that very great improvements will be made in the registration of voters I deem to be certain.

If anything were wanting to show the admirable manner in which the British army is general-officered, the examination of Lord Combermere at the trial of Colonel Dickson against the Earl of Wilton would have settled the matter. A good old gentleman, doubtless, is Lord Combermere; a little aged, perhaps—ninety, or thereabouts—a man of the Simpson and Colbrington, and other Crimean celebrities' calibre, with the favour a little improved by keeping. This, and his military rank, and that the band of the Life Guards always plays on Mr. Paul Bedford's benefit, "by the kind permission of Viscount Combermere," was all that the general public knew about him until Saturday last, when he himself volunteered an explanation. Here was a nobleman, a man of very high standing in the army, "the proper person to whom complaint should be made," who "wrote to the War Minister recommending Colonel Dickson's removal from the regiment," and who (with all respect to age, be it said), from senile imbecility, had not the slightest notion of anything that was going on. He acted upon papers which were laid before him, of which he "could not make head nor tail;" he had tried to read the report of the board, but "couldn't get through it;" he allowed that "perhaps he had no right to recommend Colonel Dickson's removal at all;" he confounded the Princess Royal with the late Princess Charlotte; he joined with the greatest merriment in tears of laughter against himself; and at this very hour he is a mighty man of war and a leader among our generals!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Great things have been doing at the Adelphi since I last wrote. On Thursday night was revived Mr. Planché's extravaganza of the "Invisible Prince," the best work of the best burlesque writer of the age. It is refreshing to listen to the ringing jokes, the profusion of tropes and metaphors, the crackling antitheses, and the frequent apertures which shower from Mr. Planché's pen, after the surfeit of smoothness and slant, and word-distortion and balderdash, we have had of late years. The absence of any great last scene was apologised for in a very telling stanza, but it was an unnecessary apology, as the very lack of perpetually unrolling things, disclosing stupid ballet girls in unmeaning attitudes and cloth-of-gold skirts, was a positive relief. Mrs. Mellon played Leander—in which Miss P. Horton formerly made such a hit—with very great spirit and vivacity; Miss Mary Kelly looked charmingly, and sang a newly-written scene in her most piquant manner; and Miss Kelly was sufficiently pert as the maid. Mr. Toole was on his mettle, as well he might be, for he decidedly had made no mark since the opening of the theatre; but he now put forth his powers, and acted admirably. Burlesque is his forte; and his expression of deep, dire, melodramatic passion—good parody on *Othello*—is inimitable. He was capitally made up, and carried through the play splendidly. The piece was well dressed, and the *mise en scene* very good. On Monday "Masks and Faces" was revived with great success. Triplet (the starving poet) is Mr. Webster's best part, and he plays it as well as ever; Mrs. Mellon was excellent as Mrs. Wolf; and Miss Henrietta Simms confirmed the good opinion she has already created. The same evening Mr. Wright re-appeared in the role of "Welcome Little Stranger," and received the heartiest

Mr. W. H. Prescott, the historian, died on the 23rd ult., after a brief illness, caused by an attack of apoplexy. His age was sixty-two.

The Marquis of Bristol died on Tuesday, at the age of ninety. He was the eldest member of the House of Lords.

THE TELEGRAPH TO ALEXANDRIA.—The negotiations between England and Austria relative to the construction of an electric telegraph from Russia to Alexandria have terminated, and a convention is concluded on the subject. Austria undertakes to lay cables between Ragusa, Corfu, Zante, Candia, and Alexandria; that is, to lay one cable containing three electric wires between each of the places mentioned. The estimated outlay being £500,000, England agrees to guarantee, for a period of twenty-five years, one-half of an interest of six per cent. on that sum. A separate wire is to be placed at the disposal of the British Government; and we are to have a separate office at Ragusa for the despatch of messages to and from India.

Literature.

Adam Bede. By GEORGE ELIOT. Author of "Scenes of Clerical Life." London: W. Blackwood and Sons.

Mr. Eliot is the greatest living master of a well-nigh lost art—that of telling a simple story of human nature as it is, and leaving you in love with that intricate faulty thing. Allowing complication and variety of incident, it is easy to huddle up real moral issues, or work out fabled ones in a conclusion of poetical justice; but where the personages are few and the machinery scanty, so that the reader commands the whole horizon of the narrative with ease, that story-teller knows a great secret who can fearlessly show you everything, good and bad, weak and strong, silly and wise, in his people, and yet, without poetical justice, leave you healthily at ease with yourself, your neighbours, and the whole frame of things. "If," said Lord Byron,

"If my Muse were perfectly consistent,
How could she possibly show things existent!"

That is the problem. Shall it be solved in the way of cynicism (or, as Mr. Ruskin would say, "base naturalism"), in the way of true poetical justice (or "affected purism"), or in the way of true naturalism? Poetical justice has lately fallen into disfavour; but, on the other hand, novel-writing has too much run into cynicism. Mr. Eliot stands, as a healthy naturalist, in striking and instructive contrast with the cynical novelist. He is modern and Christian all through. The cynic brings the whole weight of modern analysis to bear upon the facts of life, but ignores—or does not heartily avail himself, in the readers' behalf, of the moral leverage of modern faith. Or, to vary the figure, he applies the most recent science and the newest instruments to the work of dissecting human nature, but carries it on by the cold, dull lamplight of the oldest and most outworn fatalism; and when, by chance, some phrase or allusion germane to nobler faiths flutters the writing, it breaks on a true eye with as deadly an effect as a stray sunbeam in a sick room where a lamp is burning. Mr. Eliot has as few reserves as any man, and makes short work of vulgar disguises; but then he works by daylight, and drags wrong things into the open sunshine of eternal law interpenetrated with love. You no longer speak of "sublimation"—the word is now trite; no longer say, "Well, it's a bad job, and we must make the best of it;" but "Well, life at its worst is good, and better and better is its rule for ever." It is scarcely possible for the thoughtful reader to miss such reflections as these in reading Mr. Eliot; for, after so much keen analysis and daring exposition of motive and feeling, he finds himself asking, as he shuts up the book, "How is it that all this has not made me sad, distrustful of others, and indulgent to myself?" which is the usual effect of cynical writing.

Mr. Eliot is doing a good work in the particular in which he is the direct antithesis of our sad and sulky and half-pagan storytellers; but we are sadly afraid, comparing "Adam Bede" with "Scenes of Clerical Life," and noticing how the former is beaten out thin and dwindles into common-place in many a page—that Mr. Eliot is a self-repeater, with a vein soon to be worked out. The scenery, machinery, and personages remind one almost too much of the previously-published work. But Mr. Eliot may usefully repeat, as often as he can vary the features, his portraits of honestly pious "evangelical" men and women. He has the field entirely to himself. He paints the "evangelical" pietist with an intelligent impartiality which is absolutely without an approach to a parallel in the whole range of storytelling. Dinah Morris, the Methodist preacher in this tale, is too much of a psychologist, and too fond of nature, for what she is in other respects; the sequence of thought and feeling in her prayer, her sermon, and her letter, is too subtle and conscious for the person, the times, and the occasions; but this winning creature is a fine study for those whose image of dissenting piety is something sallow, that talks through its nose, and enjoys nothing. We may add, however, that the exceeding clear-sightedness, in virtue of which Mr. Eliot succeeds just where everybody else breaks down, makes him *tiresomely* impartial. If he would only be a little unjust, and strike in the wrong place now and then, it would be a sort of relief when there are three volumes to be got through.

Circulating-library readers will be staggered when we tell them the story out of which these three volumes are made. Just at the opening of this century, Adam and Seth Bede were carpenters in Hayslope. In the same village Arthur Donnithorne was the young squire, Hetty Sorel the "beauty," and Dinah Morris, a Wesleyan field-preacher. Adam was in love with Hetty, Seth with Dinah, and both were unsuccessful suitors. A flirtation between the squire and Hetty, with more force in it than most flirtations have, grew to a serious secret intercourse. Adam found the two kissing in the wood, and called upon the squire to renounce the girl directly unless he meant to marry her. Arthur relinquished the intimacy, and assured Adam that there has been nothing but kindly flirting between them. The carpenter now became a favoured suitor, and the marriage was not far off, when Hetty disappeared from Hayslope, and turned up at last in prison as the murderer of her child—and Arthur's! From hanging she was saved at the gibbet's foot by a reprieve won by Arthur, who learned the facts barely in time to make efforts to save her, he having been absent in Ireland in his capacity of militia captain; but she was transported, and eventually died on her way back to England. In the meantime Dinah has fallen in love with Adam, and he marries her; Seth, a quiet fellow enough, looking on at his brother's bliss. Arthur, after a long absence abroad in the army, comes home, shattered, broken-spirited man, condemned to "go softly all the days of his life;" and the story is rather hastily closed. That is all the plot; the subsidiary incident and character-printing cannot be sketched. Upon this very slight basis is constructed a three-volume story of almost always strong, and sometimes very painful interest. Now, as this material is decidedly poor, as the author is not what is called "powerful," and as he falls short in scenes of passion—how does he manage to produce his effects? In this way: first, he makes you know his characters well, by accurate description, and leads you, by genial touches, to like them; and, secondly, he puts you, in every scene, inside the brain and heart of the actor of the moment. But after all, we could occasionally spare a little of the wonderful clearness of a detail for an equivalent in strength and fire, and we resent as an affront an "effect" which has been so much stippled in. To be knocked down by a Brobdingnagian thrust of pathos is very well; but to be thrilled to agony by a thousand Lilliputian pins of the same, is a shock to both pride and patience, however finely the sticking-in may be done.

Not to leave the reader who is as yet unfamiliar with Mr. Eliot, without a taste of his quality, we quote a beautiful passage concerning WOODEN-HEADED JOSHUA RANN.

"But Adam's thoughts of Hetty did not deafen him to the service, they rather blended with all the other deep feelings for which the church service was a channel to him this afternoon, as a certain consciousness of our future past and our imagined future blends itself with all our moments of keen sensibility. And to Adam the church service was the best channel he could have found for his mingled regret, yearning, and resignation; its interchange of beseeching cries for help, with outbursts of faith and praise—its recurrent responses, and the familiar rhythm of its couplets, seemed to speak for him as no other form of worship could have done; as to those early Christians who had worshipped from their childhood upward in catacombs, the torchlight and shadows must have seemed nearer the divine presence than the heathenish daylight of the streets. The secret of our emotions never lies in the bare object, but in its subtle relations to our own past; no wonder the secret escapes the unsympathising observer, who might as well put on his spectacles to discern odours."

"But there was one reason why even a chance comer would have found the service in Hayslope Church more impressive than in most other village nooks in the kingdom—a reason of which I am sure you have not the slightest suspicion. It was the reading of our friend Joshua Rann. Where that good shoemaker got his notion of reading from, remained a mystery even to his most intimate acquaintance. I believe, after all, he got it chiefly from Nature, who had poured some of her music into this honest conceited soul, as she had been known to do into other narrow souls before his. She had given him, at least, a fine bass voice and a musical ear, but I cannot positively say whether these alone had sufficed to inspire him with the rich chant in which he delivered the responses. The way he rolled from a rich deep forte into a melancholy cadence, subsiding, at the end of the last word, into a sort of faint resonance, like the lingering vibrations of a fine violin-

cello, I can compare to nothing for its strong calm melancholy but the rush and cadence of the wind among the autumn boughs. This may seem a strange mode of speaking about the reading of a parish clerk—a man in rusty spectacles, with stubby hair, a large capcut, and a prominent crown. But that is Nature's way; she will allow a gentleman of splendid physiognomy, and poetic aspiration, to sing wotfully out of tune, and not give him the slightest hint of it; and takes care that some narrow-browed fellow, treading a ballad in the corner of a parthous, shall be as true to his intervals as a bird."

Which musical digression of the author reminds us to say a parting word or two in the musical way. What does Mr. Eliot mean by "that strange blending of exultation and sadness, which belongs to the cadence of a hymn?" Which hymn? What tune? All hymns are not alike in that particular, surely? And what, again, does he mean by saying Mr. Poyser's voice "fell at once, from the key of B with five sharps, to the frank and genial C?" Mr. Eliot, like many other people, does not know what a key means! It is a matter of notation. To the human voice, or any perfect instrument, such as the violin, B, with five sharps, would be as "frank and genial" as C.

The Wanderer. By OWEN MEREDITH. London: Chapman & Hall.

MR. OWEN MEREDITH'S second volume contains nearly 500 pages of brilliant and powerful writing, the beauty and vividness of which are as unquestionable as the general effect is questionable. The book leaves us with the same impression as nearly every recently published volume of verse by our "young poets" has done—the impression, namely, of having read it all before. We sadly want a philosophy of plagiarism; the subject is in great confusion. How many single fine phrases and images in Mr. Meredith's first and second volumes we could find elsewhere is not the point which at present troubles us; nor is any sensible man captious in judging the writings of "young poets" in regard to such matters. But we are a little bewildered when, in addition to taking the usual license of his order, he runs into wholesale parallelisms such as this. In "Babylonia," Mr. Meredith sings as follows:

"You stars, so still in the midnight blue,
Which over those hurling roofs I view,
Out of reach of this Babylonian riot
We so restless, and you so quiet,
What is the difference 'twixt us and you?
"You each may have joined with a pain divine,
For aught I know,
As wildly as this weak heart of mine,
In an agony!" &c., &c.

Which led us to turn immediately to our Matthew Arnold (Second Series), where we found this passage:

"In the moon-blanch'd street,
How lonely rings the echo of my feet! . . .
A break between the house-tops show
The moon . . .
And the calm moonlight seems to say
Hast thou then still the old iniquity?
Flames and clearness without shadow of stain!
Clearness divine!
Ye heavens, whose purest regions have no sign
Of luxury, though in so calm; and, though so great,
Are yet untroubled and unpassionate . . .
I would not say that your mild robes retain
A tinge, it may be, of their silent pain
Which have longed deeply once, and longed in vain."

Now, in a reading and writing age like this, a score of such instances as the above might not justify us in calling a writer a plagiarist; but critics with memories and consciences may plead their frequent recurrence as a reason for not giving peremptory judgments upon the qualities of "young poets" who print a good deal that had better have stayed in their exercise-books. Our opinion is that Mr. Owen Meredith will make a permanent mark upon the literature of the age; but we might draw ugly omens the other way from the extreme imitativeness and pervading half-sincerity of his poetry.

"The Wanderer" is avowedly the author himself. Whatever indecency attaches to a man saying publicly, even under a pseudonym, some of the things said in these poems is his business, and not ours. There are five "books," taking the "Wanderer," in a series of short poems, through Italy, France, England, Switzerland, and Holland, and closing with songs of Palingenesis, in which last is expounded a system of Pantheistic Christianity which does not come out neatly in such verse as this:—

"This interchange, upon man's part, I call
Religion: revelation on the part
Of Duty: wherefrom there seems to fall
This consequence (the point from which I start)
If God and man be one (a unity
Of which religion is the human side)
This must," &c., &c.

There is an unhappy love-affair with "Irene," and an unattainable "Cordelia," who is the Wanderer's good genius; there is much suffering, much despair; the "check of Vice is kissed dead white;" and book VI., the book of "new-creation," dismisses the tale of "one man's life" to roam the world as "all men's lesson." The influence of Mr. Robert Browning (referred to by name, page 350) is strikingly apparent both in the author's style and thoughts.

The book contains, we repeat, much powerful and beautiful writing; but it is unhealthy, splashy, and imitative. Now Mr. Meredith has cleared his bosom of all this "poisonous stuff," he will, we dare say, give us by-and-by something wholesomer, and more individual.

THE WINANS STEAM-SHIP.

THE Winans steamship, a strange craft, as our readers may see—is at length completed; and, moreover, has been tried. Before we narrate the result of the trial, we may as well say something of the vessel itself, the plan upon which she was built, and the performances expected of her.

To begin with, she is like nothing else afloat. She has no keel, no masts, no rigging, no deck, no cutwater, nor bow, nor stern. In shape she resembles nothing so much as a huge cigar. Round the middle of the cigar runs a ring, attached to which are flanges set at an angle best calculated to strike the water and propel the vessel. The belt is made rapidly to revolve round the vessel by four powerful steam-engines placed amidships. The deck is only a segment of a circumference of sixteen feet; upon it are riveted four settees, upon which passengers are to take the air. There are rudders at both ends, in shape like spades, with a blade four feet by three. We have now only to add that the vessel is sixteen feet in circumference at the widest part, and 180 feet long; and that her owners expected her to cross the Atlantic in four days. We give their description of this novel vessel:—

"It has been with a view to obtaining greater safety, despatch, uniformity and certainty of action, as well as economy of transportation by sea (taking shipwrecks and other casualties and risks into consideration), that we have devised and combined the elements exhibited in this vessel."

"Experience has shown that steam power on board sea-going vessels, when used in aid of sails, insures, to a great extent, despatch, certainty of action, and uniformity in the time of their voyages. Now, we believe that, by discarding sails entirely, and all the necessary appendages, and building the vessel of iron, having reference to the use of steam alone, these most desirable ends may be even still more fully obtained."

"The vessel we are now constructing has reference to these objects, and is for the purpose of experiment, to enable us to test the accuracy and practical value of our peculiar views. It has no keel, no cut-water, no blunt bow standing up above the water-line to receive blows from the heaving sea, no flat deck to hold, or bulwark to retain, the water that a rough sea may cast upon the vessel; neither masts, spars, nor rigging. The absence of sails not only renders the parts thus abandoned by us useless, but their abandonment in a vessel such as ours will, we believe, most materially promote safety, easy movement, or diminished strain of vessels in rough weather, will save dead or non-paying weight, insure simplicity and economy of construction, and will give greater speed in smooth water, less diminution of speed in rough water, as well as diminished resistance to moving power at



THE WINANS STEAMER ON HER TRIAL TRIP.

all speeds, in all water, and result in shortening the average time of making sea voyages.

"The length of the vessel we are building is more than eleven times its breadth of beam, being sixteen feet broad and 180 feet long. This whole length is made available to secure water-lines, which are materially more favourable to fast speed, and also to diminished resistance to moving power at all speeds, than the water-lines of any of the sea-going steamers now built, the best of which, looking to speed and ease of movement, have a length of only eight times their breadth of beam. The portion of our vessel not immersed has the same lines as that immersed, so that it will pass easily through the heaviest sea; while, from its form and construction, no water can be shipped that will sensibly augment the load, or endanger the safety of the vessel, which may, we believe, be propelled at its highest speed in rough weather with an impunity which is far from being attainable with vessels as now built, to be propelled wholly or in part by sails. It is believed, also, that the plan and position of the propelling wheel in this vessel is such that its minimum hold of the water will be much greater in proportion to tonnage of vessels than the maximum hold of the propelling wheel or wheels in ordinary steamers, thus enabling the full steam-power to be applied, with its maximum effect, at all times, and uniformly, thus making available those properties of the hull of the vessel which allow it to be propelled at full speed in the roughest sea.

"The engines are high pressure, and have a cut-off that is variable from one-sixth to full stroke. They are four in number, and, combined, will exert three-fold more power in proportion to displacement of water than those of the most powerful steam-packets now built.

"The boilers are similar to locomotive boilers in plan and construction, and can consume about thirty tons of coal in twenty-four hours.

"The above peculiarities of construction, it is believed, will enable the present vessel, even notwithstanding the decided disadvantage she will labour under from her small size, to make better speed in smooth water than usual. It is believed, however, that the greatest advantages will be those exhibited in heavy weather, enabling her materially to exceed the average speed heretofore made upon the ocean.

"Again, the vessel being built entirely of iron, she will be free from

all danger from fire; and, from the number of her distinct and water-tight compartments, she will be comparatively free from danger of sinking in case of collision or other mishap, as any one or even several of the compartments might be filled with water without seriously endangering her safety. And further, the form of the vessel, while it makes her stronger than usual, is such as to afford the least possible hold for the wind and waves; so that the danger of injury from

heavy seas and storms is small. For these reasons, it is believed that the vessel will be an unusually safe one.

"The fact that every portion of the hull or outer shell of the vessel is arched in all directions, and the entire material is in the best possible position and form to resist the various strains that it can be subjected to at sea, gives it an important advantage in point of strength, safety, and buoyancy over any other sea-going vessel.

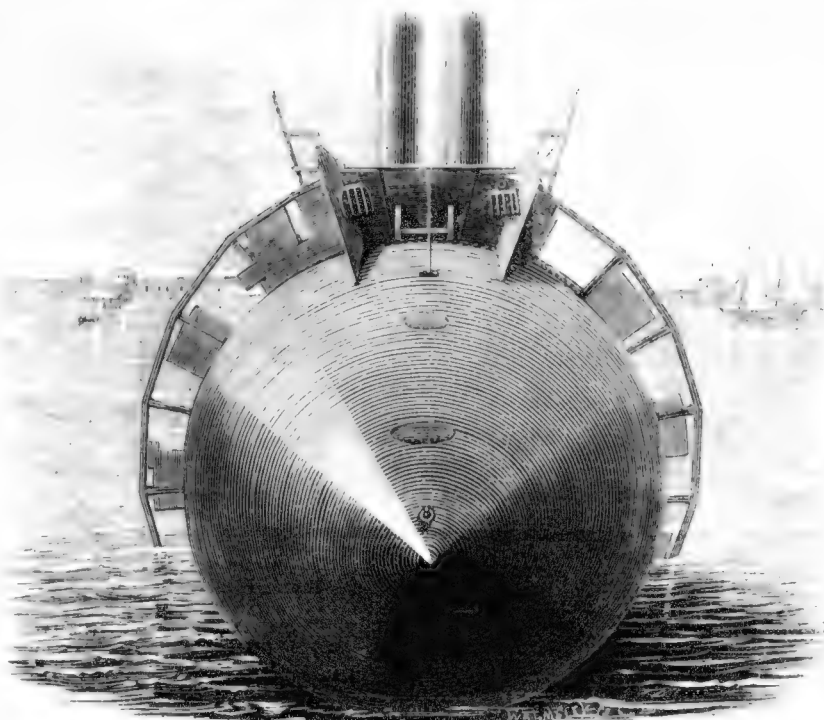
"The form and construction is remarkably plain and simple, resulting in great economy of material and workmanship, and facility of construction. The less the weight of material, the greater, of course, the capacity for carrying paying freight, and the less will be the resistance to moving power in proportion to such freight. With 200 tons of coal on board, the present vessel will displace about 350 tons of water, and will accommodate about twenty first-class passengers and the United States mail, with room to spare for small valuable packages, specie, &c.

"We believe that shorter average ocean passages than have yet been obtained are desirable, and may be had by vessels constructed on our plan, and if they are confined to carrying passengers, the mail, specie, and such other freight as can well afford to pay a high rate, in consideration of extra despatch and safety, we believe that they will pay better and be more useful than the vessels now used for these purposes.

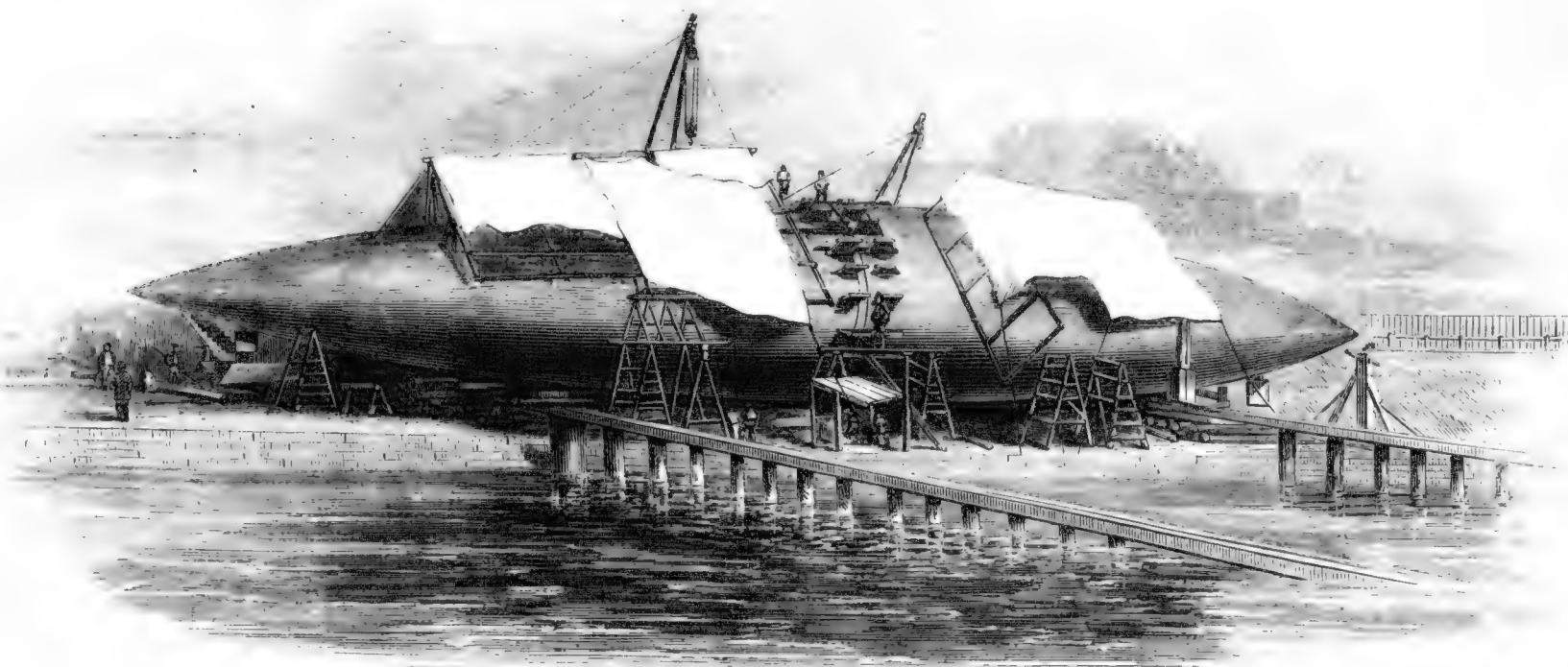
"We believe, further, that the same principles and properties which adapt our vessel to high average speed, also adapt it to the cheap, safe, and sure transportation of freight as compared with vessels using sails only, or sails and steam combined. The small hold which the wind and waves have upon a vessel constructed on our plan, its easy movement through the water, the greater amount of freight that may be carried in proportion to weight and cost of vessel, the small risk to vessel

and freight, and greater regularity in time of making voyages, must, in our opinion, give to it great advantages in any competition, where economy, speed, and certainty are the results to be obtained.

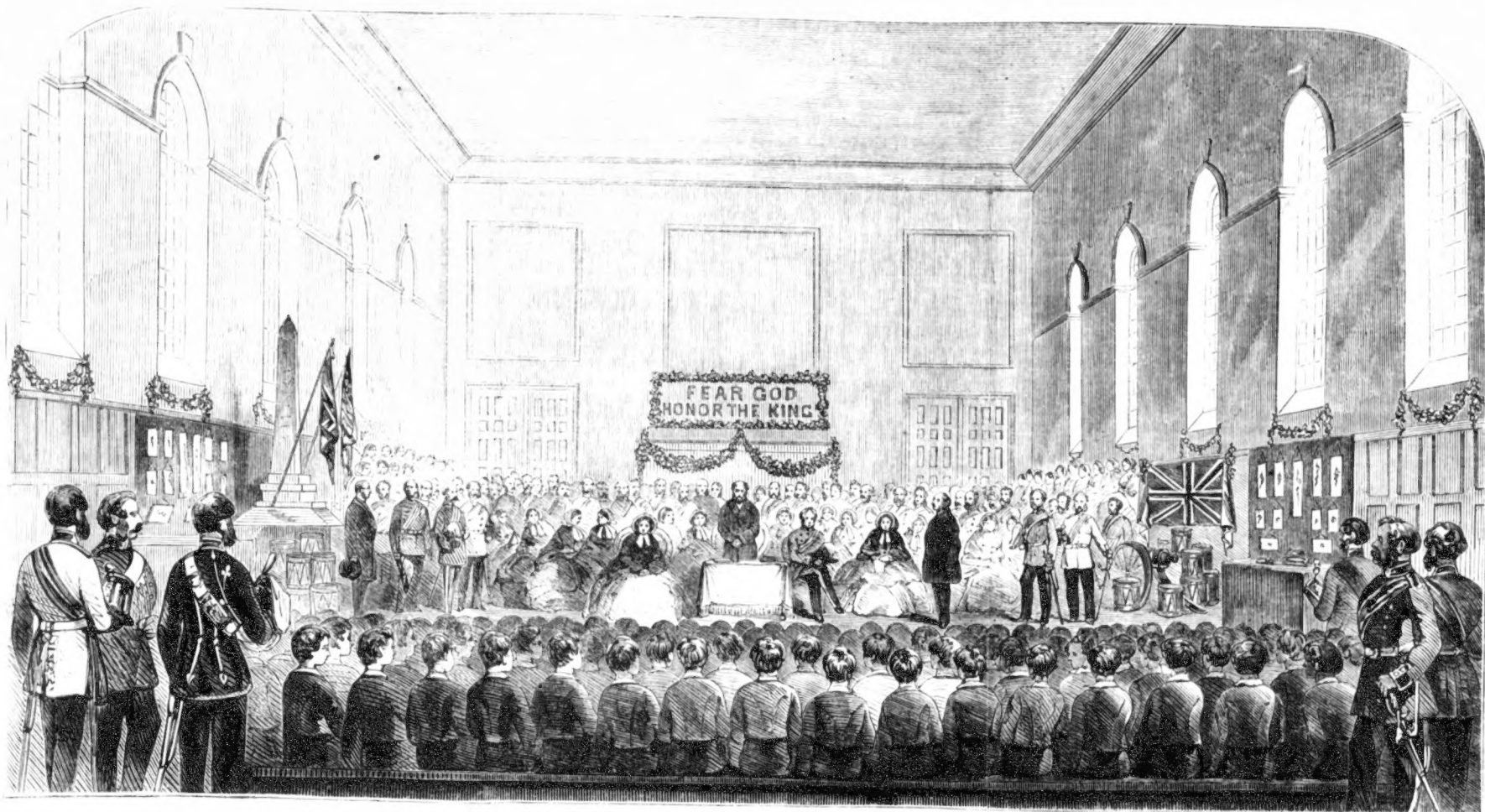
"We also believe that due speed for passengers, and due economy for tonnage, when speed is not required, will justify the use of steam on our plan, on many routes in a smaller and cheaper class of vessels than any which can now be profitably employed."



END VIEW OF THE WINANS STEAMER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)



THE WINANS STEAMER DURING ITS CONSTRUCTION.



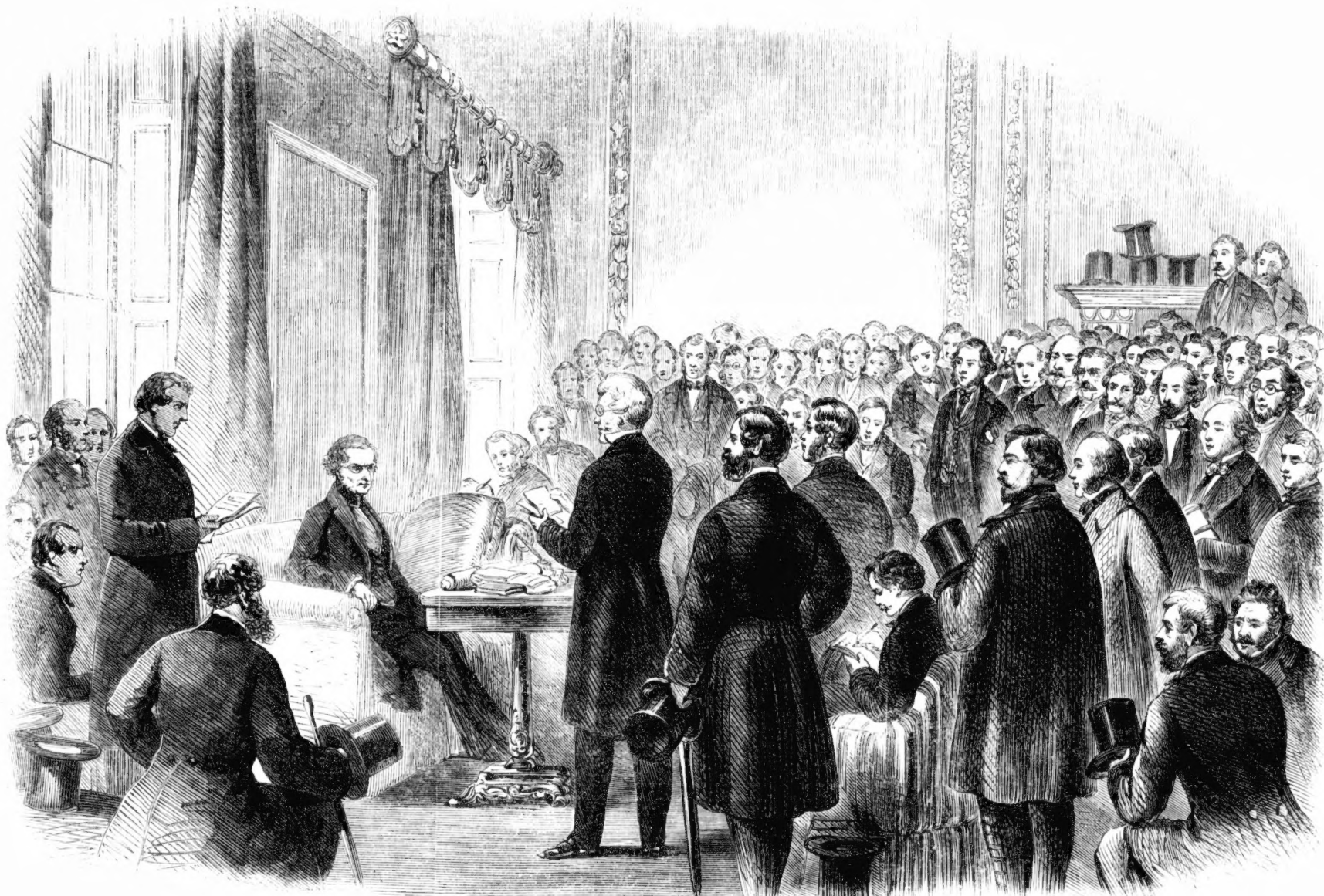
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL, DUBLIN.

Upon trial, however, the vessel rather disappointed expectation—so far as speed is concerned, at any rate; for the average running did not exceed twelve miles an hour. The points of the bow and stern barely touched the water, and the even progress of the vessel caused no commotion of the waves, but left a smooth wake like a groove. The ventilation below decks was perfectly preserved during the running of the machinery, and at no time did the thermometer rise above 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The builders are said to regard the trial as satisfactory, and “a guarantee of success when a greater distance is attempted.”

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL.

A VERY large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen attended lately at the Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin, for the purpose of witnessing the presentation, to the successful pupils, of the prizes apportioned from the Crimean Banquet Fund. It had been resolved that the surplus remaining from the funds collected for the banquet, should be vested in the hands of trustees, for the benefit of the Royal Hibernian School. Accordingly the interest accruing from that sum has been divided into three money prizes, one of £15, one of £10, and one of £5,

to be annually competed for by pupils of the school. What added in a great degree to the interest of the ceremony, was the attendance of the Lord-Lieutenant and his Countess, accompanied by Lord and Lady Seaton, and a numerous suite. Addresses were read by General Colomb and others connected with the establishment, after which the successful competitors were called up, and received from his Excellency a savings'-bank book representing the amount of their prizes. In our engraving Lord Eglington is seen addressing the pupils; on his right is the Countess, and on the left Lord and Lady Seaton, and General Colomb.



DEPUTATION TO LORD DERBY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PAPER DUTY.

